

Essential

MARBELLA | MÁLAGA | SPAIN
N° 308 — JULY 2025

watch
VIDEOS
ON PAGE

PILAR RUBIO
& SELMARK

PASSIONATE
FOR PARIS

BRANDING
IN MARBELLA

PORSCHE
911 992.2 GT3

ENERGY
SUPERYACHT

EXCLUSIVE!
NICHOLAS
HOULT

AMAI AT
OCEAN
CLUB



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Travel Trends Culture Home Lifestyle Business Property Gourmet



An aerial, top-down view of a beach club's pool area. The pool is a light blue, irregular shape on the left. To its right and along the top and bottom edges are rows of lounge chairs, each with a large, octagonal umbrella featuring a red, white, and blue geometric pattern. Several palm trees are scattered throughout the tan-colored deck area. The text "at a beach club" is written in a green, cursive font across the pool. In the bottom right corner, there is a white curved banner containing the website and social media information.

at a beach club

www.oceanclub.es

 [oceanclubmarbella](https://www.instagram.com/oceanclubmarbella)

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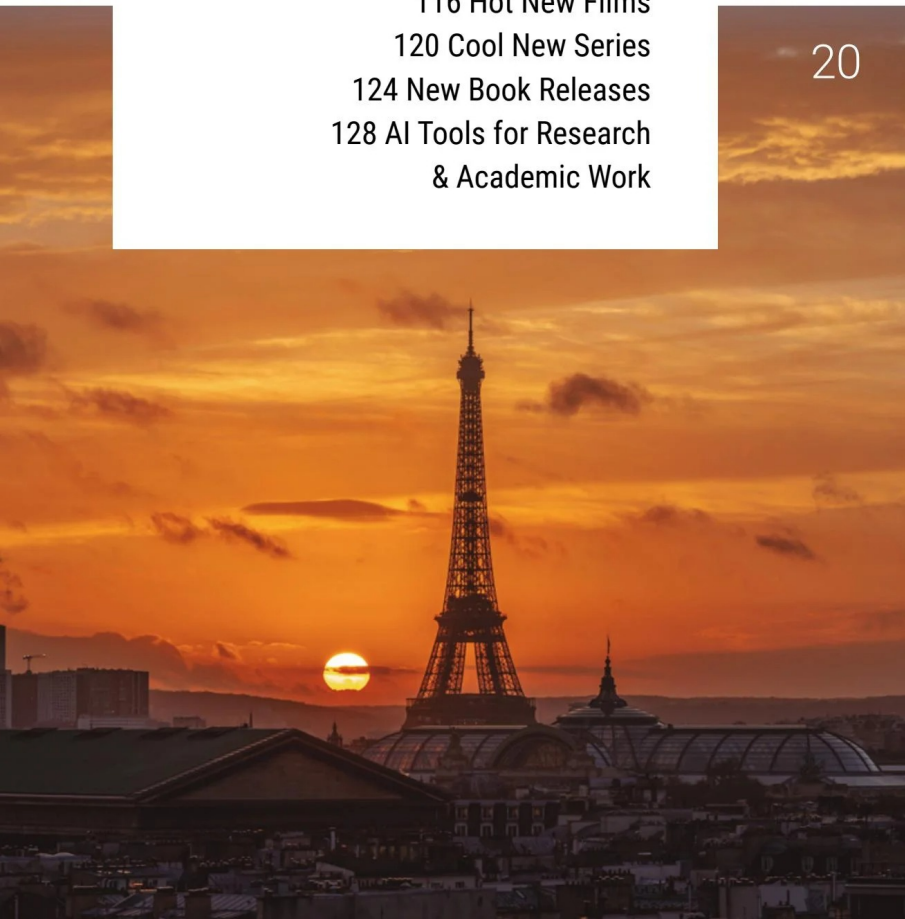
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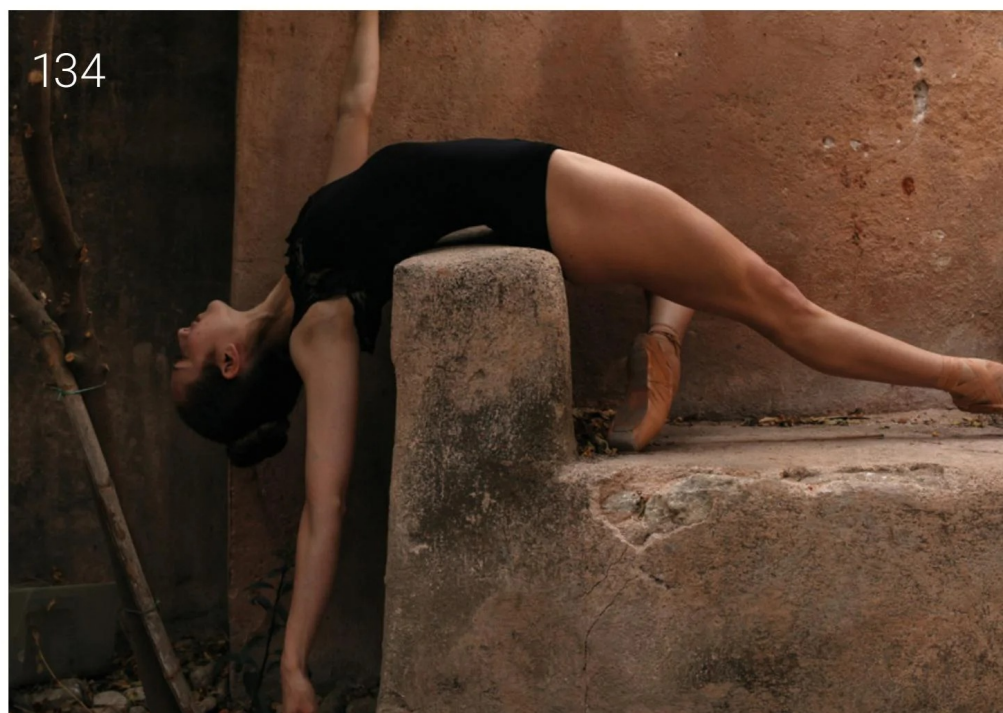
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Los Flamingos Golf: Extraordinary cutting-edge villa with breathtaking views in an exclusive golf community. Designed to the highest standards offering bespoke interiors throughout. This impressive property boasts expansive terraces and outdoor spaces, and luxurious amenities, such as a large pool, gym, cinema room, and a fully independent guest apartment. 6 beds, 7 baths, built area approx. 1,257 m², plot approx. 1,297 m². Price €4,900,000, E&V ID W-03061V



Nueva Andalucía: Sophisticated modern villa with Andalusian flair boasting breathtaking sea views set in a private location. 5 beds, 5 baths, built area approx. 514 m², plot approx. 1,084 m². Price: €4,950,000, E&V ID: W-030A6S



Frontline Golf · Marbella Club Golf Resort: A masterpiece of modern architecture designed to the highest standards with high-end amenities. 7 beds, 11 baths, built area approx. 1,652 m², plot approx. 4,588 m². Price: €11,500,000, E&V ID: W-02YFGR



Puerto Banús · Frontline Beach: Exceptional beachfront duplex penthouse with private pool and unobstructed sea views. 3 beds, 3 baths, interior area approx. 319 m², terrace approx. 238 m². Price: €5,950,000, E&V ID W-02X10T



Golden Mile: State-of-the-art penthouse with private pool within a 5-star gated community steps from the beach. 3 beds, 3 baths, interior area approx. 142 m², terrace approx. 270 m². Price €3,975,000, E&V ID W-02XXG9



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Cascada de Camoján: A stunning modern villa offering sleek design and breathtaking open views. This exceptional property features four levels with generous living spaces. The master suite boasts a walk-in wardrobe, luxurious en-suite bathroom, and private terrace with sea views. Additional amenities include a cinema room, wine cellar, gym with sauna, and a three-car garage. 5 beds, 6 baths, built area approx. 1,002 m², plot approx. 1,220 m². Price: €6,950,000, E&V ID W-02ZWOH



Beachside · Guadalmina: Stunning second-line beach villa with spacious outdoor living, private pool, and exceptional design. 7 beds, 6 baths, built area approx. 585 m², plot approx. 2,206 m². Price: €4,500,000, E&V ID W-02ZVQK



Los Monteros: Exceptional newly built villa steps from the beach with sea views, rooftop terrace, gym, and private pool. 6 beds, 8 baths, built area approx. 787 m², plot approx. 1,415 m². Price €8,750,000, E&V ID W-02XXT3



Río Real: Premium frontline beach apartment with panoramic sea views, luxury amenities, and direct access to the beach. 3 beds, 2 baths, interior area approx. 105 m², terrace approx. 45 m². Price €2,995,000, E&V ID W-02X4ZF



La Quinta: Exceptional penthouse with unrivalled views and private pool within the exclusive gated community of The View. 3 beds, 3 baths, living area approx. 218 m², terraces approx. 281 m². Price €2,995,000, E&V ID W-02WBRF



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publisher



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PUBLISHER

DREAM ON DREAMER

LIFE GETS IN YOUR WAY

Let life get in your way this summer by making the most of it. It is our hope that this July edition of **essential** will help you to do just that.

Let us whisk you off to Paris, the city of love, for a romantic interlude. As well as all its revered highlights, we delve deeper into the city's lesser known charms.

Imagine life onboard a stunning superyacht, feel the adrenalin in the new Porsche 911 999.2 GT3, and have fun zooming around in a Mini Mike.

This month, we focus on art in all its

guises and we invite you to reconnect with your inner self, finding peace of mind with ancient spa practises

Check into the new OKU Andalusia and check out suave swimwear from Selmark modelled by this month's cover star, Pilar Rubio.

Catch our one-on-one with Nicholas Hoult and meet Dr. Krisztina Soreg, Associate Professor at Les Roches.

Finally, plan a visit to the new-look Ocean Club and savour some beautiful rosé wine this July.

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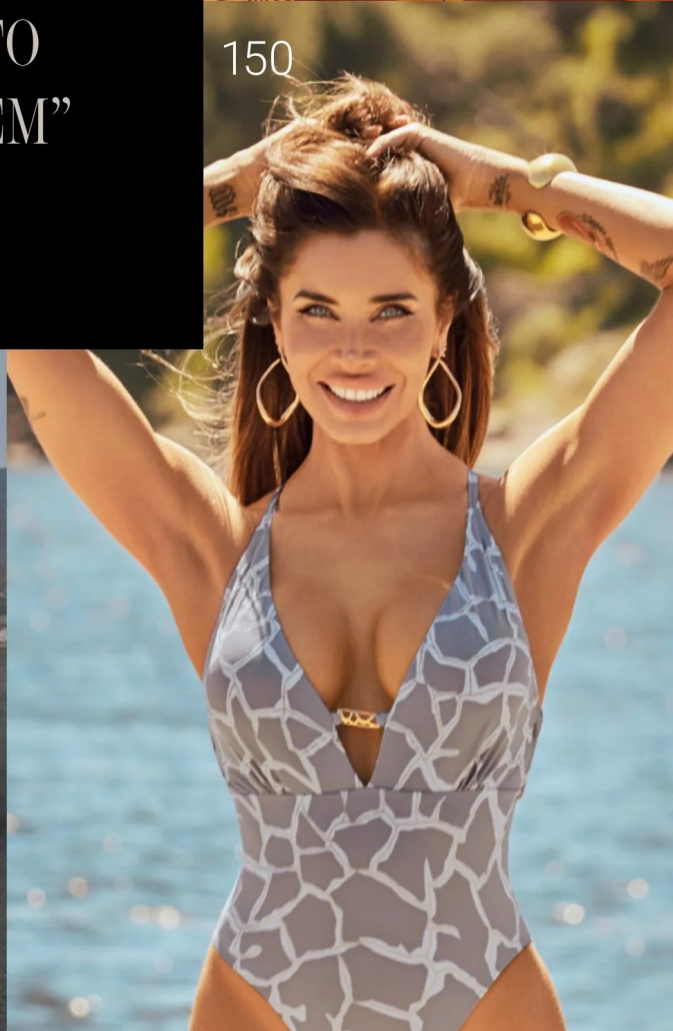
“ALL OUR DREAMS
CAN COME TRUE,
IF WE HAVE THE
COURAGE TO
PURSUE THEM”

Walt Disney

150



86





Ref: DM4199

Price: 15.000.000€

SIERRA BLANCA Marbella Golden Mile. Unique mansion with panoramic sea views in prime location with 24h security.



1.922 m²

4.246 m²



Ref: DM4747

Price: 14.500.000€

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3.197 m²



Ref: DM5254

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Ref: DM5279

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Diana Morales
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Ref: DM5219-01

Price: 4.995.000€

LOS NARANJOS *Modern renovated villa.*



6



7



613 m²



1.130 m²



Ref: DM5261

Price: 3.490.000€

NUEVA ANDALUCIA *Panoramic views. Gated.*



4



3



466 m²



930 m²



Ref: DM5269

Price: 690.000€

COTO REAL *Apartment. 24h security.*



2



2



134 m²



46 m²



Ref: DM5219-02

Price: 4.995.000€

LAS BRISAS *Golf and mountain views.*



4



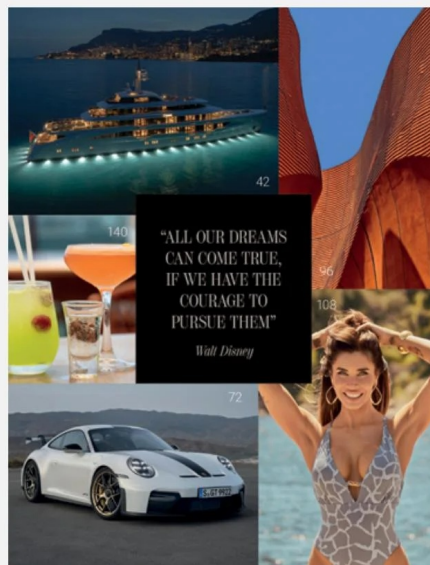
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442 m²



882 m²



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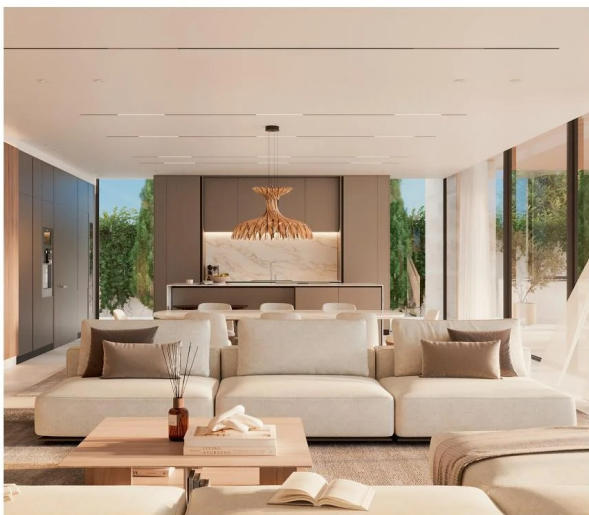
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ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE



*The images are used for illustration purposes only. The design may vary in the completed units.





Take time out to explore Paris, the city of love. Marvel at the sheer scale and opulence of the Energy Superyacht.

Have fun in a MOKE with The Jolly Mile and feel the pedal hit the metal in the new Porsche 911 992.2 GT3. Catch our one-on-one with Nicholas Hoult, who stars as Lex Luthor in the new Superman.

spotlight

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PARIS

ROMANCE, ROOFTOPS, AND REFINED INDULGENCE

WORDS **NATALIE LEHMANN** PHOTOGRAPHY **SHUTTERSTOCK**

Paris might be one of the most visited cities in the world, but don't let the tourist queues fool you – this is still a city that keeps its secrets, a metropolis that is still one of mysterious romance and winding cobblestoned streets. Yes, you can Instagram the Eiffel Tower like everyone else, but to really experience Paris, you must slip off-script.



Long before it became the set for *Emily in Paris*, the city had been shaped by centuries of drama, ambition, and resilience. In my most recent evaluation of the city that never loses its charm, I've mixed classic itineraries with a sophisticated traveller's curated instincts and let the city do the leading. This way, the Paris recommended here is truly a unique one.

LEFT BANK, RIGHT BANK, OR BOTH?

The French capital is neatly divided into 20 arrondissements, spiralling out from the centre like a pastry (a pain au map, if you will). If choosing between 20 wasn't hard enough, Parisians have divvied up the city further, making locals and visitors alike

choose between the Left or Right Banks of the River Seine, the North or South, Rive Gauche or the Rive Droite. To be chic and sophisticated on the Right or intellectual and bohemian on the Left? A local must choose, but as a guest you can experiment with both while residing in one. ›



Fountain in the Jardin des Tuileries, near the Musée du Louvre

To understand Paris is to appreciate the layers of history beneath your feet. Architectural masterpieces in Romanesque, Gothic, Neoclassical, Art Nouveau, and Modern styles remind you of this city's centuries-old role as Europe's cultural heartbeat. From the Roman baths still visible near Cluny, Bourbon and Bonaparte glamourisation, and Haussmann's wide boulevards, the story of Paris is told through its stone and skyline.

The 1st to 8th arrondissements are where you'll find most of the museums, landmarks, and luxury boutiques. All worthy contenders for your time. But if you wander a little further – say to the 11th, 13th or 18th –

you'll discover the locals' Paris: bistros without influencers, wine bars without velvet ropes, and bakeries with lines that mean something. The 11th arrondissement is particularly exquisite, containing a multitude of restaurants holding Michelin stars and culinary greats like Anthony Bourdain. Septime, Le Pure Café, and Bistrot Paul Bert can all be found huddled together near produce markets, shops, and cafes.

THE HISTORICAL HEART – RIVE DROITE

The 1st arrondissement is Paris at its most picture-perfect. Walking along the Seine, you'll find the Louvre, the Tuileries Garden, and Rue de Rivoli – while always

elegant, these locations are consistently busy. For equally well curated collections with fewer crowds, Musée National Picasso-Paris and L'École des Arts Joailliers are notable contenders for your time in Paris. The Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, as well as the Jardin du Luxembourg, are wonderful parks to relax in with a book or watch Parisians in their element. As much as I adore the shops on Rue de Rivoli, especially the perfumeries, the Rue Mouffetard located on the Left Bank is revered for its local shops and markets, making it a more distinctive shopping experience – much more in line with my romanticised Paris. ›



ROOFTOP BAR & SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

2025

EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

10th: Double Touch

26th: Sky Fall

AUGUST

7th: Guri & Eider DJ

21st: Everlasting Fire

SEPTEMBER

12th: Guri & Eider DJ

OCTOBER

11th: Black Swan: *Closing Night*



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Across the Seine is the Île de la Cité, a naturally occurring island, and home to La Cathédrale de Notre-Dame, still under careful restoration after the 2019 fire. The island was the original site of the Romans' settlement, after overtaking the Celts in Paris. The Franks followed the Romans, challenged by the Huns, and as each new invader came to fight for what was already becoming the cultural hub of Europe, Paris was moulded into the resilient

city we roam through today.

The Notre-Dame is once again open for regular use and tourism, but it was only a few years ago that the entire world watched the historic beacon of strength burn for an entire night. The early Gothic cathedral has stood tall in the heart of Paris through the French Revolution, Napoleon's redecorating efforts, the Paris Commune, World War I, and finally Nazi occupation during World War II. Despite significant damage, the Notre-

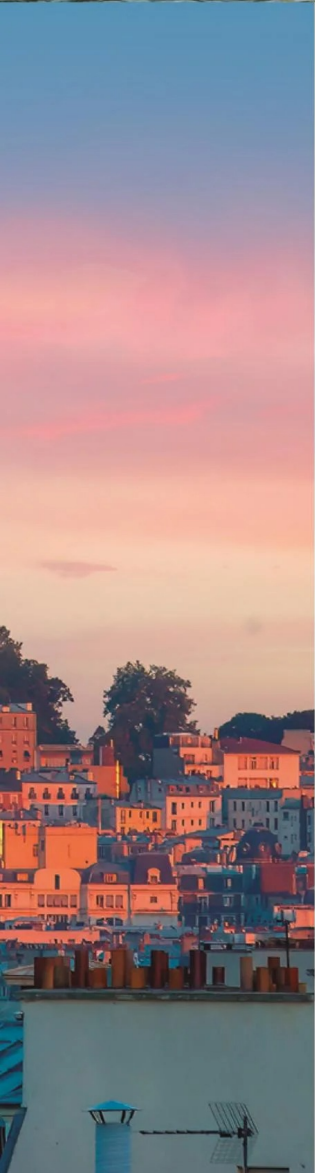
Dame will be completely restored by 2028, remaining a part of the Paris skyline since 1163. Looking beyond its scaffolding above ground, beneath its square lies the Crypte Archéologique, where Roman foundations sit quietly below the modern bustle. If catacombs are daunting or yesterday's news, these Roman preserves are worth descending to for a hint of ancient gravity.

Sacré-Cœur seen at sunset from afar





Pont Neuf crossing the Seine from Right to Left Bank, across the Île de la Cité



Sauntering eastbound, you'll reach the Marais – once marshland, then aristocratic enclave, now boutique heaven. Filled with unique Parisian ateliers, diverse cuisine offerings, and the Place des Vosges, the neighbourhood is ideal for people watching, outfit judging, and fashion inspiration. Renowned artist, poet, and *Les Misérables* playwright, Victor Hugo lived here, separating from the traditional norm of poets congregating in Montmartre. Did you know that Hugo's infamous novel, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* actually saved the cathedral from demolition and neglect in the 19th century? A Paris without Notre-Dame wouldn't be the soulful city we walk through today.

Despite Hugo choosing another home, Montmartre itself is a model neighbourhood. Perfect for boulangerie hopping, visiting the graves of your favourite French existentialists, and living like Picasso or Renoir among steep streets and panoramic views. Everyone flocks to the hill for the steps, the view, and the sense that Amélie might still be waiting tables. But go past the souvenir shops and the uphill selfies, and you'll find a cluster of streets where locals are a majority in sun-dappled courtyards. This past March I visited the Rue des Saules for the first time, where you can still see a working vineyard – in central Paris!

>



A tour boat floating down the Seine. Sunset and day tours are offered on the river



If the walk to the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur de Montmartre is simply too much of a hike, consider taking in Paris from the Galeries Lafayette Haussmann rooftop terrace where you'll be able to spot the Eiffel Tower, Palais Garnier, and the Sacré-Cœur. While the views from the Galeries Lafayette are priceless (quite literally) and come with a prerequisite shopping tour, you may opt for a sunset view with a glass of Chablis in hand and hors d'oeuvres at rooftop bar Le Toit de la Tour, the newly renovated bar of La Tour d'Argent (Paris' oldest restaurant, est. 1582).

CROSSING TO THE LEFT BANK

Once you've covered the touristic classics, it's time to wander. Cross over to the Rive Gauche via the Pont des Arts, where lovers once chained padlocks to the railings until the city took them down. The bridge simply couldn't bear the weight of so many French love affairs. Here in the 6th arrondissement, cafes like Les Deux Magots and Café de Flore still whisper of Sartre, Simone de

Beauvoir, and Honoré de Balzac, though you're now more likely to spot a fashion editor or beret-wearing tourist than a philosopher or writer.

For the contemporary equivalent of what once was café culture in Paris, take a detour into the narrow lanes of Saint-Germain-des-Prés. Independent wood-façade bookstores, dark jazz cellars, and tucked-away chocolatiers await – if you look for it, you'll find the quaint Musée Eugène Delacroix hidden behind a garden wall. Blink and you'll miss it.

The Carré Rive Gauche holds an impressive collection of art galleries and antique shops that could inspire or furnish your home. Take back a piece of Paris from famous curators like Galerie J. Kugel, various galleries in the Latin Quarter, or opt for a specialised shopping experience through regularly hosted antique shows hosted in the area. Little shops like stationery store Olivier de Sercey and larger but just as unique options such as Le Bon Marché are wonderful stops for any kind of traveller in the area. ›

A walk along the Pont des Arts, once lined with padlocks



The timeless charms of the Saint-Germain-des-Prés make it a perfect place to stay during your time in Paris. As you potter through the streets, peeking in and out of shops, waiting for tourists to flee back to their tour groups, sit at Le Rostand, where conversations hum with intellect and the clink of wine glasses, or café au laits. For a quieter stay, perhaps more local, Airbnb options and hotels are offered in the 13th and 14th arrondissements for an everyday Paris experience.

TASTES & TIPPLES

Café culture is not just alive in Paris; it's thriving with traditional and trendy options. Sure, you'll pay €8 for a coffee in Saint-Honoré,

but it comes with a side of people-watching that rivals any theatre show. While I prefer calmer shopping and monument gazing, I will always opt for a terraced café on a busy street like Café Le Rostand rather than a quiet one for the true experience of viewing the City of Lights in action. Though Hemingway's and Fitzgerald's romanticisations of Paris may be unrealistic

in our day and age, bars like Bar Nouveau and the ones at Maison Proust will feel just as intellectually charged by their cocktail craftsmen like the Bar Hemingway at the Ritz and Harry's New York Bar did in their 1920s prime. Maison Proust in particular is a perfumed velvet dream of Belle Époque opulence, ideal for a night where the plan is a singular stop. ›



Galleries Lafayette Haussmann dome

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Pont Neuf at Île de la Cité

And as for where to eat, the better question might be where can't you eat? As one of the top cities in the world with the highest concentration of Michelin-starred restaurants, Paris boasts an impressive culinary scene that has been defining and redefining gourmet traditions across the world. Travellers can follow along a Julia Child route of classic French culinary gems or explore the global flavours of Asiatic, Arabic, and modern fusion cuisine, all within a few blocks' stroll. Whether your tastes are traditional

or experimental, your preference in dining casual or luxurious, Paris is the perfect city for a foodie – especially one that expects an extensive wine list to accompany them.

Calling on wine-lovers:

every good meal should come with an exceptional list. The city is awash in expertly curated selections, whether you're at a fine dining institution or a hidden natural wine bar in the Marais. ›



A rainy evening at Les Deux Magots

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Road traffic on Champs Elyées set against the Arc de Triomphe



A meal at Septime is a masterclass in seasonal invention, while Le Clarence and Epicure offer perfectly executed traditional French cuisine that would raise Louis XIV from his grave (or should I say graves? His remains were divided between three cathedrals in Paris). No matter which time of year you visit the city, you can count on your ingredients being locally sourced and

exquisitely prepped to fit your seasonal cravings at any highly rated restaurant. If there is ever a time to count on French pretentiousness, it is in the world of gourmet.

FINAL WORD

48 hours? A week? A lifetime? No amount of time will ever feel like enough in Paris. But that's exactly why we return. Paris isn't overrated – it's just

misunderstood by those who try to see it all at once. Skip the schedule. Follow your nose, your stomach, your curiosity.

So yes, by all means see the Eiffel Tower. But after that? Put the phone down. Pick a side street. And just walk.

As Audrey Hepburn once said, "Paris is always a good idea." Especially if you know where to look. 

Lunch at Septime



A quiet street in the Marais district

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HOMES

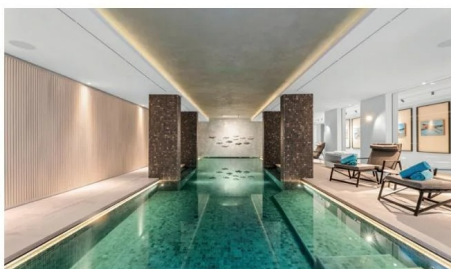


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Cascada de Camoján

AN EXTRAORDINARY VILLA: A MAURICE SAINZ MASTERPIECE OF CONTEMPORARY LUXURY WITH PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS



Property Information

5 beds | 8 baths

Built approx. 1,435 m² | Plot approx. 2,904 m²

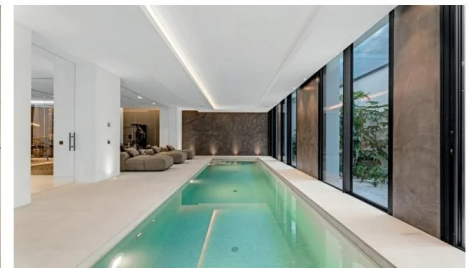
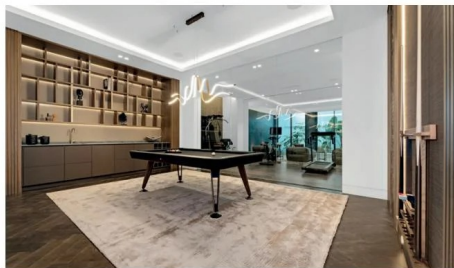
E&V ID W-02MLLF · PRICE €14,950,000

Nestled within Marbella's exclusive Cascada de Camoján, this extraordinary villa blends contemporary sophistication with innovation. This Maurice Sainz masterpiece, set within immaculate gardens, spans three magnificent levels. It features panoramic sea views, heated indoor and outdoor pools, luxurious living spaces, and state-of-the-art technology. This eco-conscious sanctuary offers five beautifully appointed suites, a five-car garage, a cinema, impressive spa facilities, and 24-hour security—the epitome of refined Mediterranean living for the most discerning connoisseur.

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Cascada de Camoján

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Property Information

6 beds | 8 baths

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OKU ANDALUSIA

NEW RESORT OPENS IN CÁDIZ

The summer has officially begun, and that means the Coast will welcome millions of tourists to our shores once again. In 2024, the Costa del Sol received a record 14.4 million tourists, and 2025 promises to be just as busy. It's always great news when a new luxury resort opens its doors, ready to welcome us with stunning views, exquisite cuisine, and accommodations that elevate comfort to a new level. This month marks the launch of the brand-new OKU Andalusia in Cádiz.

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **OKU ANDALUSIA**





LAID-BACK LUXURY ON THE COAST

‘Barefoot luxury’ is what the OKU is all about. With its stunning biophilic design features, breathtaking swimming pools, and wooden-decked Balinese-style relaxation area, it is everything a holiday by the sea could be. The resort is nestled in an idyllic spot on the beachfront of La Alcaidesa, offering breathtaking views of the coast with Africa on the horizon. It is home to a Beach Club and a stylish Kids Club, perfect for families with younger children. Sotogrande and its Valderrama Golf Club are a mere 10-minute drive away. Málaga airport, meanwhile, can be reached in under 70 minutes by car.

A WIDE ARRAY OF ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotel has 255 rooms, as well as a private, four-bedroom villa, perfect for families or groups. There are 137 Classic Rooms, 44 Rooms with Terraces, 27 Suites, and 33 Deluxe Suites. Standout options include two four-bedroom Suites, eight two-bedroom Deluxe Suites, and a Classic two-bedroom accommodation. All accommodations offer lovely views, either of the gardens, pools, or the sea. Some accommodations have a private pool, which is excellent for those seeking privacy. ›





THE SPA AND SPORTS CLUB

Modern travellers seek wellness getaways where they can boost their health and fitness while catching the best a local city or town has to offer, and the OKU Andalusia certainly delivers in this respect. Its 2,000 m² spa features an indoor pool and hammam, as well as a meditation courtyard connected to a stunning wellness garden where workshops are

offered. There is a peaceful outdoor yoga shala, where guests can perform their sun salutations or work on their yoga technique. The spa has a curated menu of treatments designed to soothe the body, mind, and soul. Whether you are seeking to cleanse, detox, relax, or rejuvenate, you will find the experience you are seeking. The spa also houses a fully-equipped fitness studio.

THE SPORTS CLUB

The OKU Andalusia offers a dedicated sports club with a selection of tennis courts, paddle courts, and a multi-sport pitch. Guests can partake in personal training, sports camps, and many other activities. Of course, there are numerous top-rated golf courses nearby for those wishing to spend a day on the greens. ›



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CULINARY TEMPTATIONS

Guests can enjoy the goodness of local produce and international flavours at numerous on-site dining establishments. Food is crafted with fresh, locally sourced ingredients, and there is something for everyone, whether you're an à la carte diner, enjoying a half-board stay, or visiting from outside the hotel. Start your day at The Terrace, the central courtyard restaurant and bar, which serves nourishing breakfasts, as well as snacks and refreshments throughout the day. The Beach Club, with its toes-in-the-sand charm, is an exclusive hideaway where you can sip on refreshing drinks and savour freshly grilled meat and fish dishes served alongside delicacies such as blistered padrón peppers,

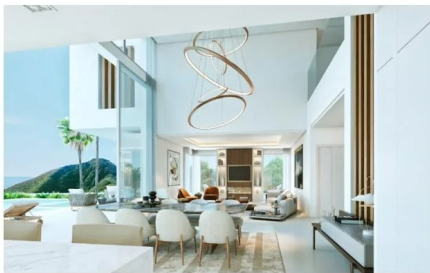
tender ceviche, and more. The resort's signature destination dining concept, Teyo, takes diners on a mouthwatering culinary journey, inspired by the flavours of Asia (in particular, Japan) and South America. Open exclusively for dinner, it offers hotel guests and outside visitors delectable fusion cuisine at its finest. To Kima, the poolside restaurant, serves an all-day menu inspired by island flavours. Finally, the Pool Bar is the perfect spot to pause for a refreshing juice, cocktail, or light snack.

The OKU is also a hotel that respects the slow living philosophy and prioritises sustainability. State-of-the-art sensors, cogeneration equipment, solar power, modern irrigation, and water diversion systems are just some of the technologies it has invested in to reduce its carbon footprint. It sounds like the perfect place for a dip in the pool, a fantastic dinner, or an unforgettable spa experience!

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ENERGY

SUPERLATIVE LUXURY ON THE WAVES

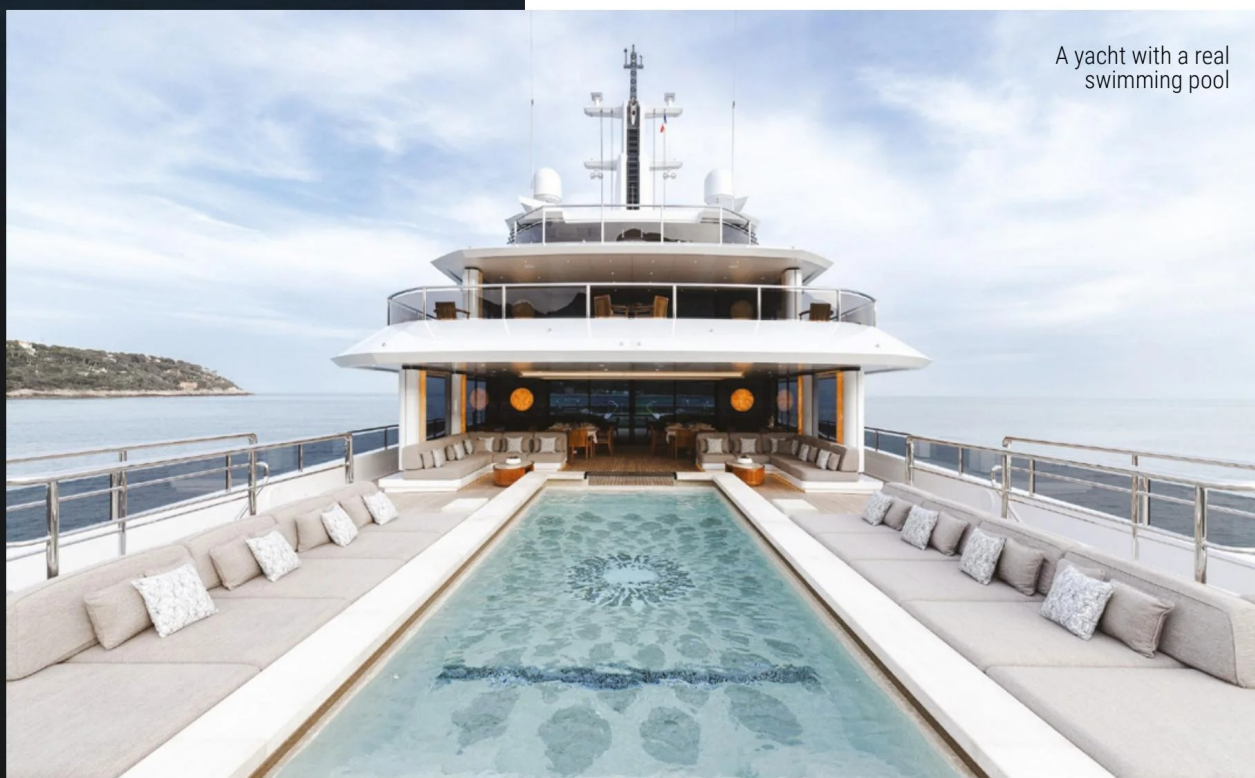
If the grandest yachts are floating villas then why are some called 'superyachts'? Because here the 'super' stands for superlative and yes, this category of vessel is indeed a floating palace.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **FRASER YACHTS**



ENERGY at night

ENERGY is one of the most singular vessels to grace the seas. It measures 255 feet (78 metres), accommodates 14 guests within seven sumptuously styled staterooms, and has a complement of 27 crew members to operate this stunning work of art and technology, and attend to its guests in the style that this superyacht demands. But even this is not what sets ENERGY apart, as it goes one step beyond floating palace luxury and opulence to offer top resort amenities such as a full-sized swimming pool, Jacuzzi, marble fire-pit, boardroom, a beauty salon, spa, gym with specialist martial arts room, sauna and hammam, as well as a helipad, a music lounge and bar, and even a world-class beach club with a full set of 'water toys' such as jetskis and tenders. ›



A yacht with a real swimming pool



Stretch your legs and relax

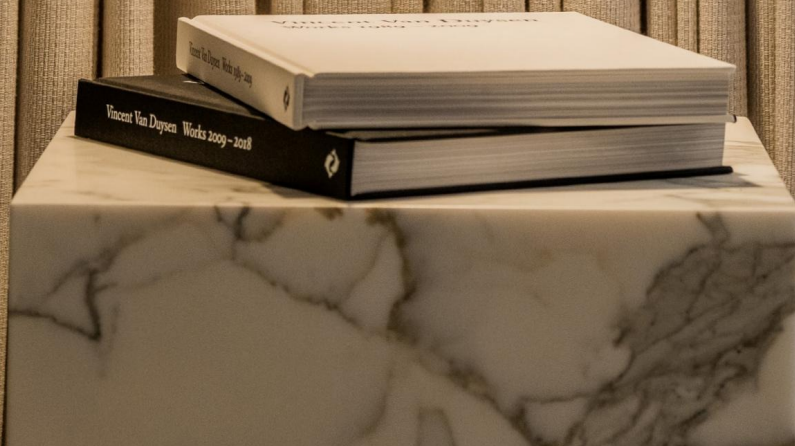
The state-of-the-art steel hull and aluminium superstructure form the basis for a seven-suite dream of the seas. Launched in 2022 and built to the highest international specifications, this is a private world of luxury where modern technology and classical craftsmanship come together with the best of noble, natural, and high-tech materials. Naturally, it also features the very highest standards of safety, be it in the form of detection and firefighting, lifesaving appliances, navigational equipment, or indeed the qualifications and credentials of the crew that handles this beautiful craft. The yacht even has a hospital cabin with full medical facilities, automatic water tight door and fire doors, as well as a Touch & Go helipad. ›



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ENERGY's own beach club



Safety and comfort go hand in hand, and here they also fuse with performance, as ENERGY can deploy exhilarating power while always maintaining optimal stability and comfort – following the famous principle of roaring Rolls-Royce and Bugatti engines

that wouldn't spill a drop when a glass of Champagne was placed upon them. Dynamic positioning throughout ensures a comfortable ride at all times on a yacht that makes fulltime living aboard a reality, thanks not only to space and luxury amenities but

also to autonomous water production, air conditioning, and two fuel-efficient 2,240 kW MTU engines that produce a top speed of 17 knots and help to power electricity generators, offering a transatlantic range of 5,000 nautical miles at an average cruising speed of 13 knots.

Panoramic outdoor lounging



THE PINNACLE OF YACHTING

ENERGY is one of the finest yachts for sale with Fraser Yachts, the crowning culmination of its many years as the world's most trusted yacht brokerage. The 2,884 GT vessel is superlative indeed, representing the high point of what is possible in luxury shipbuilding today. The exquisite interior styling is by the celebrated François Zuretti, featuring not only the finest furniture, linens

and tableware, but also such features as a solid marble bartop and a Steinway baby grand piano that take pride of place in the opulently styled music room, entertainment lounge and bar.

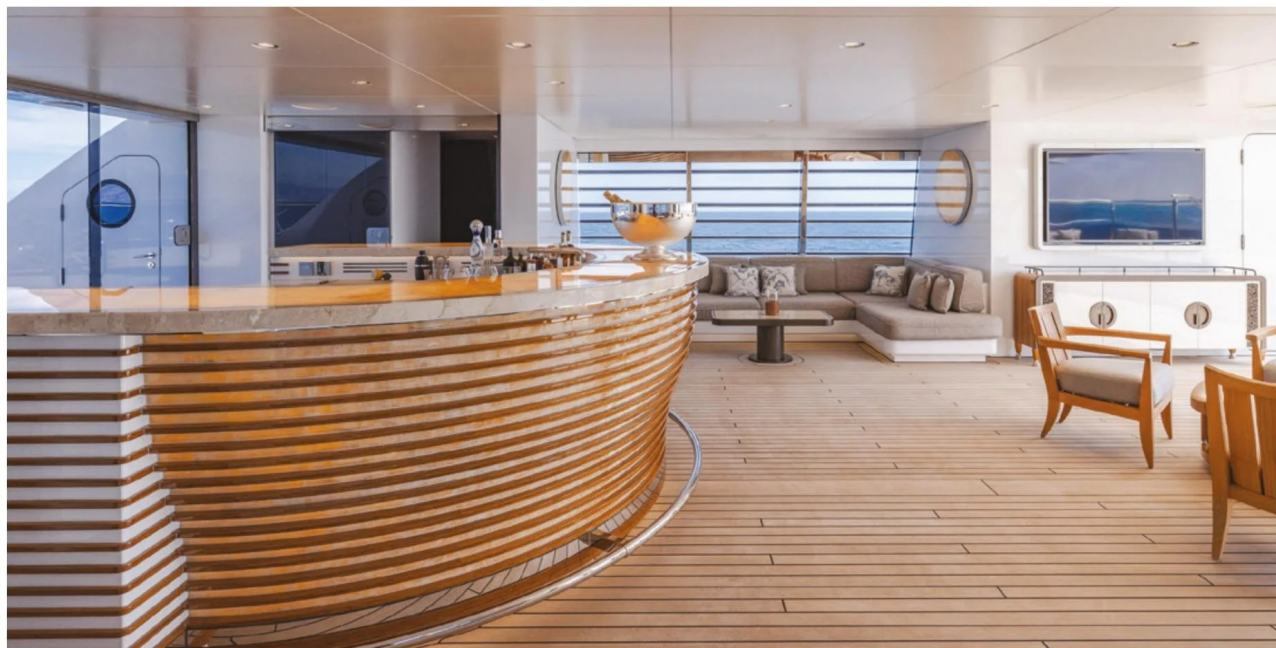
The finest handcrafted fabrics, carpets and finely polished noble wood adorn this magnificent ship, whose six deck levels are connected by sweeping staircases but can also be reached by a modern glass elevator. ENERGY is primed for global

cruising at a superlatively luxurious level, a stand-out presence even in the most glamorous settings and yacht harbours, where its visionary mix of technology and craftsmanship has resulted in a marvel of fine living. Imagine floating in the swimming pool with the ocean around you, relaxing on one of several panoramic decks, enjoying the Jacuzzi or a fully equipped and beautifully finished wellness spa. ›

Bathroom opulence with unbeatable views



Open air hospitality in comfort





The owner's master suite

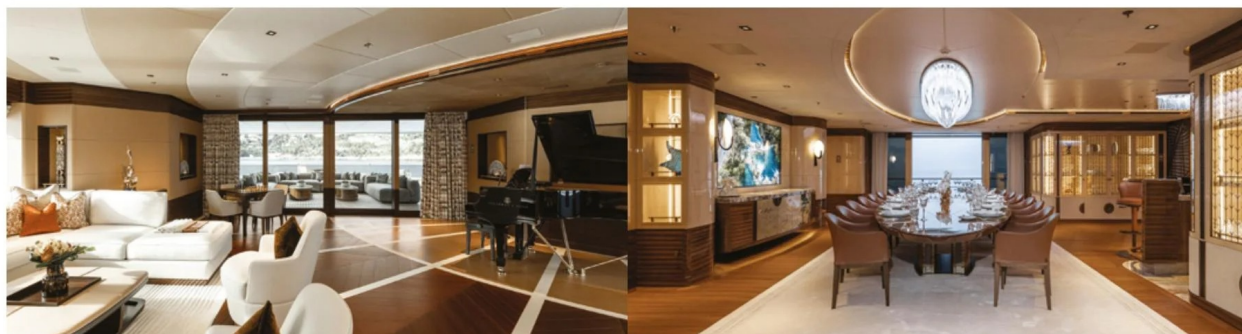


ENERGY is modern yet evokes the best of the classical era of halcyon travelling, with a formal dining room that seats 18 guests, a stately lounge and bar, music room, and a professional boardroom with business centre, not to mention seven sumptuously styled, furnished and proportioned suites with

bedrooms, dressing areas, and bathrooms that put the majority of luxury villas to shame. The owners have an entire deck at their disposal, encompassing not only the master suite, but also a lounge and dining area with outdoor lifestyle terrace that is in reality a lavish apartment in its own right. ›



Swim surrounded by the ocean



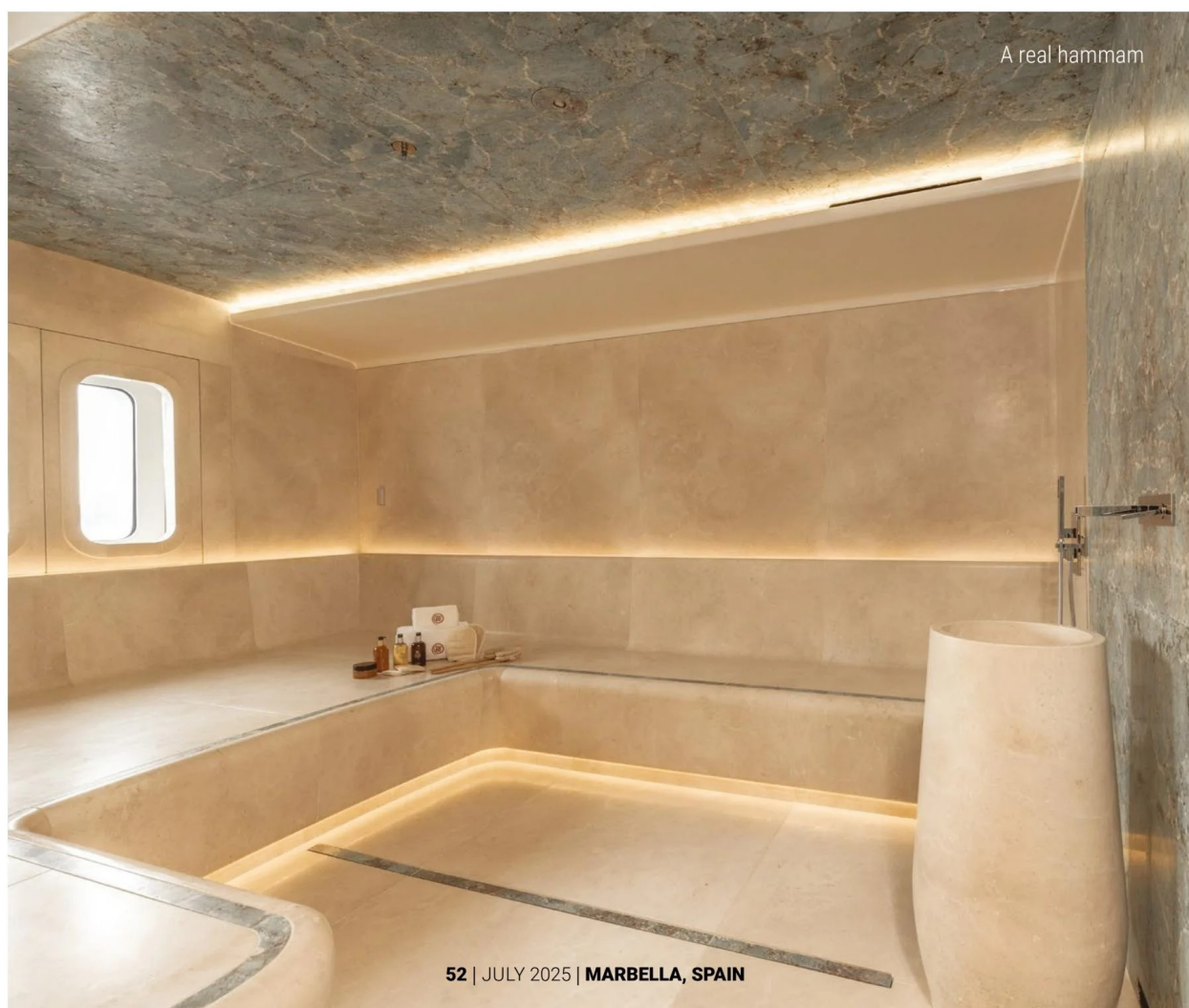
The music lounge

The 18-seater formal dining room

Fine polished wood, stone, and marble are the standard throughout, whether you are bathing before the open seas, relaxing with a drink, or partying in your own beach club. It doesn't get better

than this. At the zenith of living you will find ENERGY, the very ultimate expression of the dream lifestyle matched with the freedom of the seas. More than any home on land, ENERGY is

a haven of peace, privacy, luxury, and excitement that goes where it pleases, dropping anchor in the most seductive settings in the world as it pursues the height of living in style. ›

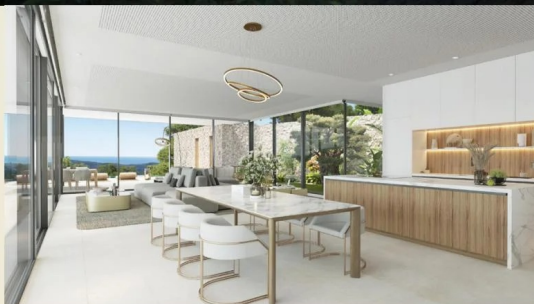


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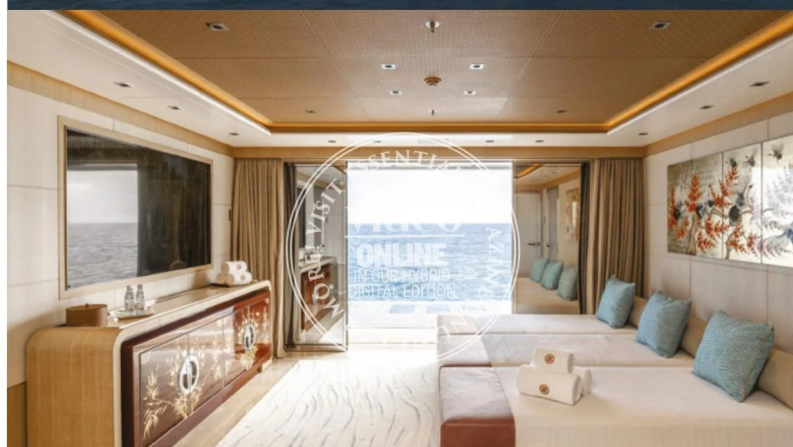

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the complex's connection to Marbella's historic center and Malaga Airport is perfect. The amenities are nothing less than spectacular: a gym, spa, indoor swimming pool, outdoor sports area, coworking space, social club, cinema, children's area, and magnificent gardens as well. This is an ideal environment in which to pamper your body and mind, allowing you to relish the Mediterranean lifestyle in its purest form.



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ANCIENT SPA RITUALS

TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN TODAY

The global spa market is growing rapidly, with a projected worth of \$147 billion by 2030. This surge reflects a rising global emphasis on wellness and self-care, supported by numerous studies that highlight the benefits of physical activity, quality sleep, and a balanced diet. People are also more clued into the intricate link between their physical and mental health, which is why battling stress proactively has become such a significant priority for so many of us. This month, we invite you to take a break and indulge in a pampering spa ritual inspired by ancient traditions.

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**



A milk and honey bath



Ancient Roman baths in Galicia

MILK AND HONEY BATHS FROM EGYPT

Milk and honey baths are believed to have originated in ancient Egypt. Their mere mention conjures up images of Cleopatra luxuriating in a tub and emerging with soft, radiant skin. Today, many spas still offer this experience, which, far from being the mere whim of an empress, has numerous proven benefits. Milk, for instance, is rich in lactic acid, a natural alpha-hydroxy acid (AHA) that

gently exfoliates dead skin cells and smoothens and moisturises the skin. Honey, when raw and unfiltered, boasts natural anti-bacterial properties and is a perfect humectant – in other words, it draws moisture into the skin. Many spas also add ingredients to boost the benefits of this treatment. Popular choices include rose petals (famed for their aromatic benefits), oats (which help soothe sensitive skin), Epsom salts (which provide

muscular relief), and essential oils (whose aromas can be relaxing or energising).

The good news is that you don't have to visit a spa to enjoy a long, pampering milk and honey bath. Simply fill your bath with hot water, add around one cup of warmed raw honey, two cups of whole milk, and approximately 10 drops of essential oil. Soak for around half an hour, rinse off any residue, and feel the wonderful softness of your skin. ›



GUA SHA FROM CHINA

If you're familiar with health and beauty trends, you've likely heard of gua sha and cupping therapy. Both these treatments were created to stimulate circulation and remove stagnant energy, or qi. Gua sha, which means 'to

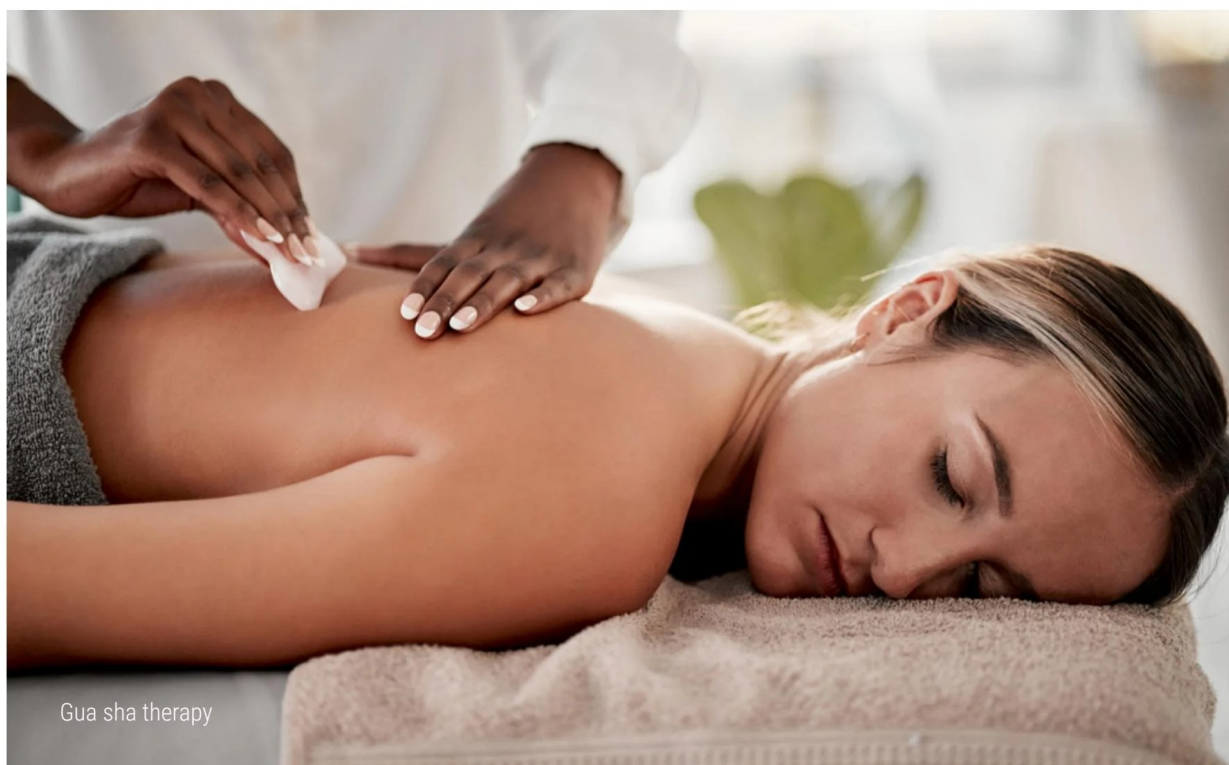
scrape away illness', involves using a smooth-edged tool to stroke the skin firmly. The term 'sha' ('sand') refers to the small red or purple spots after scraping, similar to grains of sand. According to ancient Chinese tradition, these marks represent the release of unhealthy elements, such as blocked qi or blood, particularly from areas of muscle soreness, stiffness, or injury.

The skin is usually lubricated prior to treatment with massage oil. Next, the therapist uses a smooth-edged tool made from jade,

rose quartz, or similar smooth materials, applying long, unidirectional strokes along muscle groups, acupuncture meridians, or specific areas of the body that are tense or painful.

A gentler version of gua sha is applied to the face, using lighter pressure and smaller tools.

This treatment improves lymphatic drainage, reduces puffiness, and helps to improve skin tone. You can easily try this at home with a face roller, which is readily available online or at your favourite beauty retailer. ›



Gua sha therapy



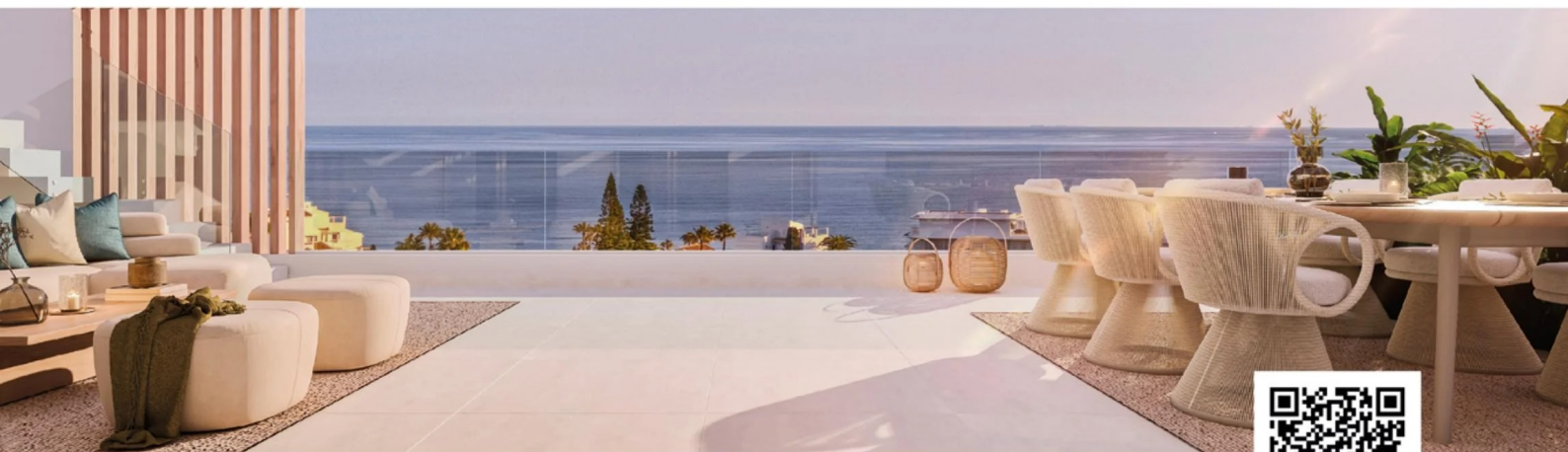
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CUPPING THERAPY FROM CHINA

Before leaving China, it is worth exploring cupping therapy, an ancient healing method in which cups are placed on the skin to create a vacuum or suction. This suction pulls the skin and superficial muscle layers upward into the cup, drawing blood to the surface and stimulating local circulation. In traditional Chinese medicine, this therapy is believed to promote the flow of Qi (life energy) and blood, remove stagnation, and facilitate the healing process.

The most common type of cupping modern spas utilise is dry cupping, especially fire cupping, in which a therapist heats the inside of a glass cup with a flame to consume the oxygen within it. The cup is then immediately placed on moisturised skin, and when the air cools, it

creates a vacuum that produces a suctioning effect. The cups are typically left in place for 5 to 15 minutes on areas such as the neck, back, or shoulders. Afterwards, they are gently moved across the skin, providing a deeply relaxing massage effect.

The wet cupping technique is vastly different. It involves lightly puncturing the skin with a small needle or lancet before applying the cups. The suction draws out a small amount of 'stagnant' blood to remove toxins and impurities. This form is also associated with Islamic medicine (Hijama) and requires strict hygiene protocols.

Cupping is used to soothe many issues, including muscle soreness, inflammation, and muscle tightness. It also serves to enhance lymphatic drainage and curb stress and anxiety.



Cupping therapy



AYURVEDIC SPA PRACTICES

Ayurveda, meaning 'the science of life', is an ancient Indian holistic healing system dating back over 5,000 years. One of its main aims is to balance the body's three fundamental energies, or doshas: vata (air and space), pitta (fire and water), and kapha (earth and water). Ayurvedic spa practices take a personalised approach, with the practitioner assessing a person's unique prakriti (birth constitution) and vikruti (imbalances) to determine their dominant dosha or doshas. Treatments in the form of oils, herbs, pressure, and temperature are then applied to balance the doshas. For instance, unbalanced vata requires

warming, grounding, nourishing treatments with heavy oils like sesame. Pitta balancing, meanwhile, necessitates cooling, calming, and purifying treatments with lighter, cooling oils, such as coconut. Finally, kapha balance is restored via stimulating, drying, invigorating treatments with herbal powders or lighter, warming oils.

Ayurveda embraces various types of treatment, including abhyanga (a full-body warm oil massage), shirodhara (a continuous stream of warm herbal oil or other liquids poured over the forehead), pizhichil (an oil bath involving the continuous pouring of warm herbal oil over the body), udvartana (a stimulating dry

massage using herbal powders), potli massage (featuring warm herbal poultices), and kati basti (localised oil treatments for areas like the lower back or around the eyes).

During Ayurvedic treatment, oils are applied liberally to the body to penetrate the skin, eliminate toxins from the deep body channels, calm the nervous system, lubricate joints, and boost circulation. After oil application, the client is then invited to perspire in a steam bath, or heat is applied via warm herbal poultices. The aim is to help open the body's channels and encourage toxins to

leave the body.

Traditional Ayurvedic spa practices also involve panchakarma (five actions), which can include purging excess congestion, the use of laxatives to eliminate excess inflammation and bile from the small intestine, and other practices centred on purification and toxin elimination. After the main elimination procedures, the client is recommended specific diets, lifestyle recommendations, and rasayana (rejuvenation therapies) to boost strength and maintain balance. ›



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ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN WATER THERAPIES

Roman therapies are one of the best-known examples of ancient spa culture. The Greeks were pioneers in harnessing the therapeutic effects of water, particularly natural hot springs. They initially cleaned their bodies with oil and ash, utilising pumice or sands to scrub their skin and scraping off the residue with a strigil. During the later 5th century BC and the early 4th century, Hippocrates, the 'Father of Medicine', recommended the

therapeutic use of water to restore the balance of the body's 'humours'. From the Classical to the Hellenistic periods (from the 5th to the 1st centuries B.C.), Greek baths were built adjacent to gymnasia, serving to cleanse the body and aid in relaxation and recovery following physical training. From around the 8th century to later periods, the Greeks also relaxed their cares away in primitive vapour baths (laconica), using hot rocks to create steam. These baths were often infused with aromatic substances

like bay laurel and juniper, as inhalation of their vapours was thought to clear the respiratory passages, alleviate congestion, and soothe coughs, similar to modern aromatherapy. Bay laurel, for instance, has a historical medicinal use for addressing respiratory issues and inflammation. Infusions were also thought to stimulate circulation and provide relief from rheumatic aches, pains, and muscle stiffness. Today, modern spas still use a combination of water, steam, and infusions to



Ancient Roman baths in Pompeii

help clear respiratory issues and avail of the mind-soothing properties of specific aromas.

The Romans were equally sold on the power of water to heal and restore. Arguably the most famous exponents of ancient spa culture are the sizeable baths (or *thermae*) and the smaller public or private baths (*balnea*). The baths not only helped to boost health and well-being but also served as buzzing social, cultural, and business hubs. In ancient times, a typical visit to the baths included a stop at the *apodyterium* or changing room, a pause in the *tepidarium* (a warm room that serves as a transition between the exterior temperature and the warmer climes of the baths), a soak at the *caldarium* (a hot room

filled with hot, humid air and a hot plunge bath) and sometimes, a rest at the *laconicum* (a hot, dry room, similar to a sauna). Next, it was time to rejuvenate the circulation with a visit to the *frigidarium* (or cold room, featuring a large, cold-water plunge pool), and enjoy the *palaestra* (an outdoor courtyard where Romans took part in ball games, wrestling, and other activities, before or after baths). If you'd love to experience the authentic Roman bath experience, visit the *Thermae de Carratraca*, inland from Málaga, where you will find hot, warm, and cool pools.

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INSIDE THE MINDS OF HIGH-END CLIENTS

THREE RULES OF BRAND POWER

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY **MONIKA LEPOVA**



RULE 3: DON'T BE THE HERO

One of the most common mistakes I see is assuming people care about your story more than their own. The truth is, we move through the world constantly filtering: Does this help me become who I want to be? Does it meet the standard I operate at? Can I trust this without needing to ask follow-up questions?

Whether someone is choosing a hotel, a development partner, or a private chef, they're looking for something that confirms who they believe they are, or who they're becoming. In practice, this means most brands talk too much about themselves and not enough about what matters to the

person deciding.

It's why I see developers leading with their company history instead of the vision behind the project. Or local restaurateurs talking about 'family recipes' instead of showing what makes their space worth booking a week in advance.

The mistake isn't talking about yourself – the mistake is assuming that your journey builds trust.

At this level, trust is built by relevance, clarity, and how well the brand reflects the expectations of the person you're speaking to. You don't need to be more impressive; you need to position your offer in a way that makes sense to the exact kind of person you're trying to reach.

THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND BEING CHOSEN

Subtle signs of misalignment are processed instantly: a dated font, a clunky menu, a tone of voice that feels off. These cues don't necessarily say "no", but they say, "not for me."

At the top level, there's no such thing as a neutral impression. Everything either strengthens your position or weakens it. Studies in cognitive psychology show that once a first impression is made, people unconsciously seek out information that confirms it – a phenomenon known as confirmation bias. Which means if something small casts doubt early on, the brain will continue scanning for more reasons not to trust you. The opposite is also true: if the brand cues signal competence and clarity from the start, everything that follows is seen in a better light.

So how do you shift the signal? You get forensic. You walk through your brand as if you had never seen it before and you question everything. Does the homepage match the quality of the offer? Does your tone of voice match the sophistication of the person reading it? ›



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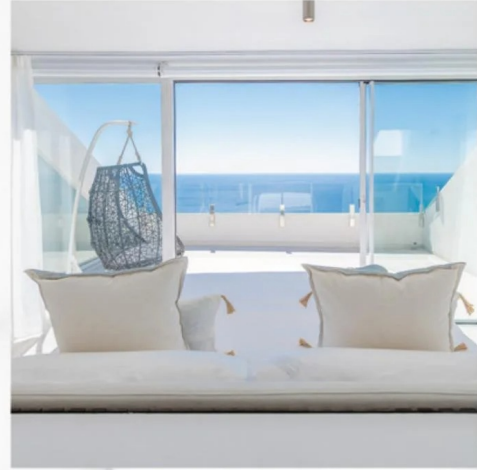
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THE JOLLY MILE

The MOKE brand is represented in Spain by The Jolly Mile, which is the retailer and provides service support not just along the Costa del Sol but throughout the country. The company offers these fun vehicles for sale and rent from its bases in San Pedro Alcántara and

Sotogrande, and besides being the ultimate rental car for summer holidays, it is of course also very popular for use at special events such as weddings, corporate launches, parties, travel groups, photo shoots, and even to add a sense of charm and tongue-in-cheek style for real estate open houses and more.

Above all, the MOKE represents a way of life that is embedded in a low-key, easy-going form of style and sophistication where convenience, practicality, and above all enjoyment and quality of life are the central elements. ›



The MOKE adds to every setting

For this reason, it has reclaimed its place as an icon in tropical island locations such as the Seychelles, Mauritius, Phuket, the Polynesian and Caribbean regions, as well as Miami, Palm Beach, Punta Mita in Mexico, and of course the Mediterranean. The MOKE is back in Saint-Tropez, Monaco, the French Riviera in general, and also in other jet-set locations such as Capri, Porto Cervo, Mallorca, Ibiza, the Algarve, and quite naturally also on the Costa del Sol. >

It suits the Mediterranean climate and lifestyle to a tee, from heading to the

bakery or coffee shop in the morning to taking it up to the golf club and parking it alongside your sailing boat in what is perhaps its most iconic setting, the marina. It turns a drive into the countryside into a real experience that takes you away from your mobile phone and really lets you take in the natural and cultural wonders around you. Driving a MOKE is a sensory experience, and one that adds an unmatched sense of fun and charm to any setting. In fact, it becomes a photo shoot opportunity no matter where you park it. Put simply, the MOKE is

a lifestyle enhancer and so popular in Sotogrande right now that local luxury real estate developer Sotogrande Life Experience now includes a MOKE with the purchase of selected villas. >

Reviving the legend of Saint-Tropez



A car just made for the Marbella lifestyle



Just imagine one parked next to your luxury jeep or sports car, and then consider which one you'll choose for that fun, refreshing, and easy-going drive to the clubhouse or café. We think we know what your choice will be, and that's why The Jolly Mile are also renting the MOKE out to vacationers and even organising group excursions. It's a fun-filled lifestyle experience that packs so much enjoyment that you'll be amazed and might just join the new wave jet-set of MOKE owners.

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THE NEW PORSCHE 911 GT3



The latest evolution of Porsche's GT3 has landed – an exercise in subtlety with surprisingly seismic results. But how does the 992.2 GT3 measure up against its already legendary predecessor?

WORDS **SAM HEXTER** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **PORSCHE**



There's a particular alchemy to the Porsche 911 GT3. Over generations, it has become the definitive driver's Porsche. Some might even say, the definitive driver's car. The outgoing 992.1 GT3 was a case in point: a roaring 4.0-litre naturally aspirated flat-six, track-tuned dynamics, and a focus so pure it bordered on spiritual. With 503 bhp (510 PS), 470 Nm of torque, and a screaming 9,000 rpm redline, it wasn't just a fast 911 – it was the marque's

GT department flexing every motorsport-trained muscle. The swan-neck rear wing, borrowed from Porsche's endurance racers, was more than theatre. It redefined the car's aerodynamic capability and became instantly iconic.

Now comes the 992.2 GT3. At first glance – it's evolutionary. But spend a moment with it, and the refinement reveals itself in whispers rather than shouts.

Mechanically, the architecture remains familiar. The 4.0-litre flat-six lives on – still naturally aspirated, still resolutely analogue in its

response, and still shaken into life by a rotary ignition switch, unlike other 911s in the range. Porsche's engineers have fine-tuned rather than reinvented. Power holds steady at 503 bhp, while torque sees a slight reduction to 450 Nm. If that seems like a regression on paper, the reality behind the wheel is anything but. Revised cam profiles, lighter internals, and optimised software lend the engine an even keener edge. Throttle response is razor-sharp, and the entire powerband feels taut, alive, and ready to dance. ›

Performance figures remain blistering. The PDK-equipped car dispatches 0-100 km/h in just 3.4 seconds. Opt for the six-speed manual, and it's a still-respectable 3.9. Top speed? 311 km/h with the dual-clutch transmission, 313 km/h with the manual. The numbers might be familiar, but the delivery is more fluid, more precise, and somehow more addictive.

Downforce has seen a subtle yet significant uptick. Porsche claims a 10% increase thanks to re-sculpted aero elements: a tweaked front splitter, reworked underbody, and a

marginally revised rear wing. PASM has been recalibrated, and the chassis receives minor updates that, together, amount to a sharper, more planted GT3. It's evolution, yes – but of the most calculated kind.

Visually, the 992.2's silhouette isn't dramatically changed, but it does refine it. A more aggressive front bumper

with reshaped intakes hints at its capability. Around the rear, the light cluster has been subtly revisited, and the diffuser has taken on a slightly more technical form. The wheels retain their staggered stance – 20-inch front, 21-inch rear – now offered with a fresh design. As ever, the effect is muscular without being brash.





Inside, the GT3 continues to walk that tightrope between focus and familiarity – the 911 has always played to duality well, and the 992.2 is no exception. It's still a place of business – supportive buckets, clear sightlines, and minimal distractions – but with just enough comfort to remind you this is a road car. A reprofiled steering wheel and updated infotainment system softly enhance the cabin experience. New trim choices and paint-to-sample options expand the customisation catalogue

further, and for those planning regular Nürburgring weekends, the Clubsport package lives on with its half-cage, harnesses, and fire extinguisher.

For a more understated look, the Touring variant returns. Ditching the fixed rear wing, it offers the same performance in a stealthier suit. To the uninitiated, it may look like just another 911. For the initiated? It's a wolf in less conspicuous clothing. But make no mistake – it's still got fangs. ›





Pricing begins at around €200,000, but as ever with Porsche, few cars will leave the factory without options. Tick the boxes for carbon ceramic brakes, carbon buckets, or that oh-so-tempting Oak Green Metallic paint, and the final bill will climb with enthusiasm.

So, what does the

992.2 GT3 represent? In a world accelerating toward hybridisation and EV silence, it's a loud, unfiltered affirmation of mechanical passion. Porsche hasn't reinvented the GT3; but rather refined it, as it has done now for decades. The result is a more polished scalpel, honed to near-perfection.

» **POWER** 503 bhp (510 PS)

TORQUE 450 Nm

» **0-100KM/H** 3.4 seconds (PDK), 3.9 seconds (manual)

» **TOP SPEED** 311 km/h (PDK), 313 km/h (manual)

» **MARKET ALTERNATIVES**

Aston Martin Vantage, Mercedes-AMG GT R, Ferrari 296 GTB, Audi R8 V10 Performance

» **PRICE** From €200,000



A hybrid GT3 variant is coming, make no mistake. But for now, the world can embrace this GT3 as one final, glorious encore for the naturally aspirated purist. **e**





bulthaup

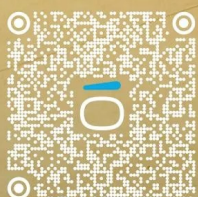
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Nicholas Hoult's route to Hollywood – raised by women, a child star in *About A Boy*, and an anti-hero in *Skins* – has kept evolving on the longest of journeys to the superhero genre. The diversity of the British star's repertoire is no better exemplified than in the coming year when he switches from Renfield, Dracula's henchman and inmate at the lunatic asylum, to Garfield, a lazy, fat and cynical Persian furry cat. The actor talks about an unusual path to stardom, how he gleans so much respect from the moviegoing public, and the excitement he feels for his upcoming role as the ultimate arch-nemesis Lex Luthor, in *Superman*, on release this month.



NICHOLAS HOULT

VERSATILITY PERSONIFIED

YOU'VE PLAYED A RANGE OF COMPLEX CHARACTERS OVER THE YEARS – WHAT WAS IT THAT DREW YOU TO LEX LUTHOR IN SUPERMAN?

"It's funny, I was actually quite intimidated by the idea of Lex at first. He's such an iconic figure – not just in the superhero world but in pop culture generally. However what drew me in was that he's not one-note. He's not some snarling cartoon villain. In fact, I'd argue Lex doesn't think of himself as the villain at all. He genuinely believes he's saving humanity, and that obsession with order and legacy becomes something incredibly personal and emotional.

That sort of contradiction – being brilliant and successful, but also so profoundly insecure – that was what interested me. It's a

fascinating psychology to dive into."

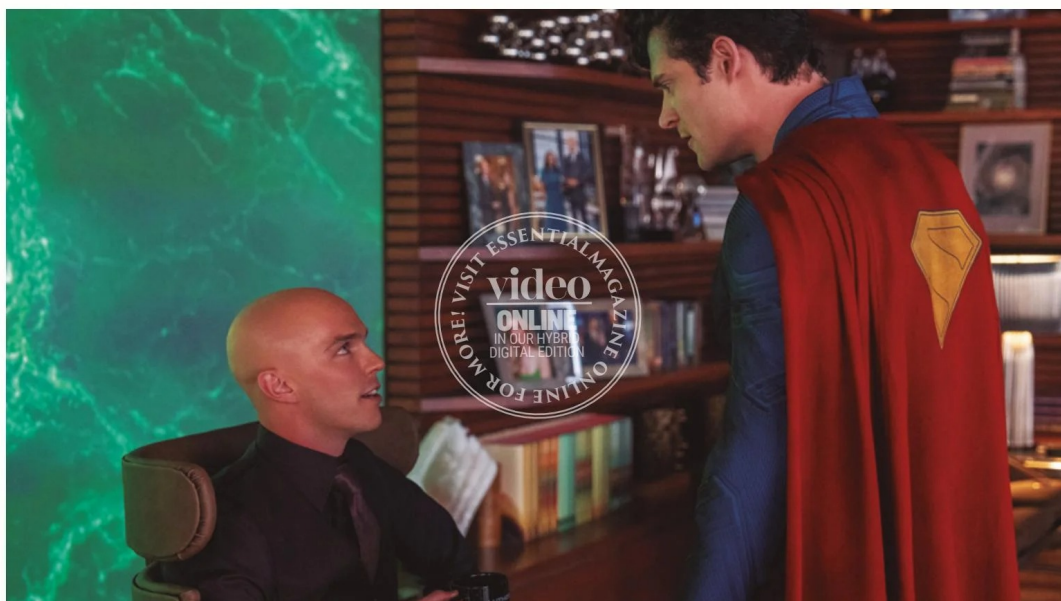
PHYSICALLY, LEX IS A VERY SPECIFIC LOOK. HOW DID IT FEEL TO UNDERGO THAT TRANSFORMATION?

"I'll be honest, shaving my head was a big moment. I'd never done it for a role before, and it changes how you see yourself in the mirror. But in a strange way, it helped.

There's something very bare and raw about it – there's no hiding. And Lex, at his core, is someone who wants total control over how he's perceived. So wearing that starkness as part of the performance made it click. Costume, posture, that glint in the eye – it all becomes part of building this person who has nothing to prove but absolutely needs to be seen."

JAMES GUNN IS KNOWN FOR BRINGING NEW DIMENSIONS TO COMIC-BOOK CHARACTERS. WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH HIM ON THIS PROJECT?

"James has this wild mix of encyclopaedic comic book knowledge and complete creative freedom. He knows these characters like the back of his hand, but he doesn't want you to do a copy-and-paste job from the comics. He kept saying, "Make him yours," and I loved that. His Lex has layers of strangeness, vulnerability, and, oddly enough, humour. There's something Shakespearean about him, too. It's been one of the most collaborative experiences I've had. James creates this space where you can go deep and weird and dark – and it's all welcome." ›



YOU MENTIONED THE LEGACY OF LEX LUTHOR – WERE YOU CONSCIOUS OF PREVIOUS PORTRAYALS?

“Of course. You can’t take on Lex Luthor without thinking of Gene Hackman, Michael Rosenbaum, Jesse Eisenberg, Clancy Brown... they’re all great in such different ways. But to be honest, I tried not to rewatch anything. I didn’t want to imitate or avoid what they did – I wanted to find something fresh.

For me, Lex isn’t about megalomania for its own sake. He’s someone who’s constantly calculating, constantly trying to control the narrative. And there’s a loneliness to that, which I really leaned into. So, it became less about legacy and more

about humanising someone who’s usually framed as a symbol.”

WHAT WAS IT LIKE FACING OFF AGAINST DAVID CORENSWET’S SUPERMAN ON SET?

“David’s got this incredible calm energy – very centred, very grounded – and that really comes through in his portrayal of Clark. You believe him, both as Superman and as this kind, slightly awkward guy from Kansas.

That authenticity makes the tension between our characters even stronger. Lex hates that Clark has this effortless ability to inspire people. To Lex, power should come from intellect and precision, not charm or

goodness. So on screen, that contrast plays beautifully. And off screen, David’s a dream – collaborative, generous, sharp. It made those more intense scenes crackle.”

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE TONE OF THIS SUPERMAN FILM?

“It’s grounded in the mythology, of course – there are the big, jaw-dropping action moments you’d expect from a *Superman* film. But James has built something that also asks more uncomfortable questions. It’s about legacy, identity, responsibility. It’s about how different people try to shape the world, and it’s not just light versus dark – it’s more tangled than that.



Essentially, I know I would only want to play a character who has a personality and a heart. There must be more to these movies than combat and a victory parade, and I think the industry is going to reach a point where fans of the genre demand

a bit more detail too. That's where we're going next."

YOU HAVE BEEN A FIXTURE ON OUR SCREENS NOW FOR TWO DECADES, YET YOU HAVE CARVED A PATH IN FILM AND TV WHERE YOUR WORK ALWAYS SEEMS ORIGINAL, AND YOU ARE

NEVER OVEREXPOSED...

"That's kind of you to say so. I think I pick my projects carefully. I really don't want to be one of those actors who is in everything – I think that'd be painful for all concerned, not least myself!" ›



YOU'VE SAID IN THE PAST THAT YOUR MOTHER AND SISTERS ALL HAD STRONG INFLUENCES IN HOW YOU GREW UP. HAVE YOU TAKEN SUCH A CALM AND MEASURED PERSPECTIVE FROM THEM?

"It's possible. Certainly, there wasn't much testosterone flying about when I was young – it was a happy, simple, and largely inoffensive upbringing.

When I went to the Sylvia Young Theatre School there was, again, a real prevalence of confident but emotionally aware girls around me. I don't look on that as a bad thing."

YOU SEEM TO HAVE GONE ABOUT YOUR PROGRESSION

IN A VERY LINEAR WAY FROM BRITISH TV TO ABOUT A BOY, WHICH MANY WOULD REGARD AS YOUR BIG BREAK, DESPITE ONLY BEING 12. WOULD YOU AGREE?

"I think when you're a child actor you are under a lot of pressure to be as youthful and as brilliant in the work that follows, when really that's an impossible thing.

Firstly, at that age you grow and evolve so quickly, so within a year or two you become unrecognisable from that character. I was also cast as someone slightly younger than my own maturity in *About A Boy* – Marcus was a smart but ultimately a very boyish character; so I was never going to be able to

look that young again, if that makes sense.

In theory, the public love to see someone evolve through adolescence into an adult; yet when that happens to a lot of actors, in actual fact the interest levels drop off because you are no longer this sweet, innocent, endearing small person."

DO YOU THINK IT A SHAME THAT YOU DIDN'T STAY IN TOUCH WITH HUGH GRANT AFTER ABOUT A BOY, AS YOU HAD SUCH A MUTUAL CHEMISTRY IN THE FILM?

"Really – I mean, I was a boy. It wouldn't have been a particularly rewarding friendship for Hugh!

I took so much from

working with him and learned so much. It was a true Busman's holiday. I certainly owe him a lot in terms of understanding the diligence and the precision needed to be a really good actor.

I went into that project as someone thinking I could act, and I could; but I came out as someone who realised just how much more complex true acting was – a constant drive that happens long before the cameras start and continues long after they finish.”

YOU'VE ALWAYS MENTIONED YOUR RESPECT FOR HUGH. HAVE YOU WORKED WITH ANYONE MORE RECENTLY WHO HAS HAD THE SAME EFFECT?

“Nicolas Cage as Dracula hit me on so many levels. He was unreal. There was something so natural and right about him in that role, and he was a lot of fun to work with.

Mostly the fact he's unbelievably good at what he does. He is demanding of people around him but only in the same way that he sets standards and targets for himself. It's incredible to watch someone who has done so much and been so many things still have the

ability to reinvent himself.”

IN CONTRAST – AND NOT THAT IT'S A BAD THING OR A LESSER WAY OF GOING ABOUT THINGS – YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A VERY RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR CHARACTERS AND YOUR CAREER – WOULD YOU AGREE?

“I think when you have been doing it for as long as I have – around 25 years from when I first started – you can't help but think of it as such a natural part of your life.

I've always been able to relax into roles pretty easily, because there is nothing

worse than not being able to do that.”

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

“When you don't enjoy the character, the script, the setting, even the director, it's an arduous process and you just want it over and to be out of there.

I'm glad and grateful to say that has only happened on a couple of occasions, and generally my perception over what a project is going to be like has largely been correct.

Acting is like life itself – you can't get it right all the time, of course... no-one can.” 



26th ANNIVERSARY

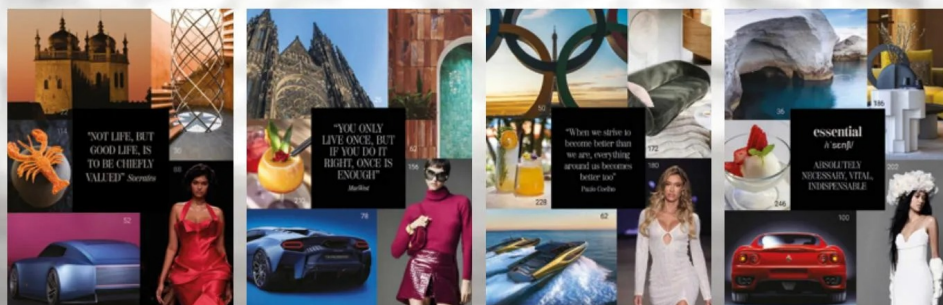
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Meet Krisztina Soreg, Associate Professor at Les Roches Marbella. Learn about AI tools for research and other vital academic and work tasks. See what's trending in Spain and further afield, as well as what's coming to the big and small screens this month.

trends

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Professor at Les Roches

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what's cool?

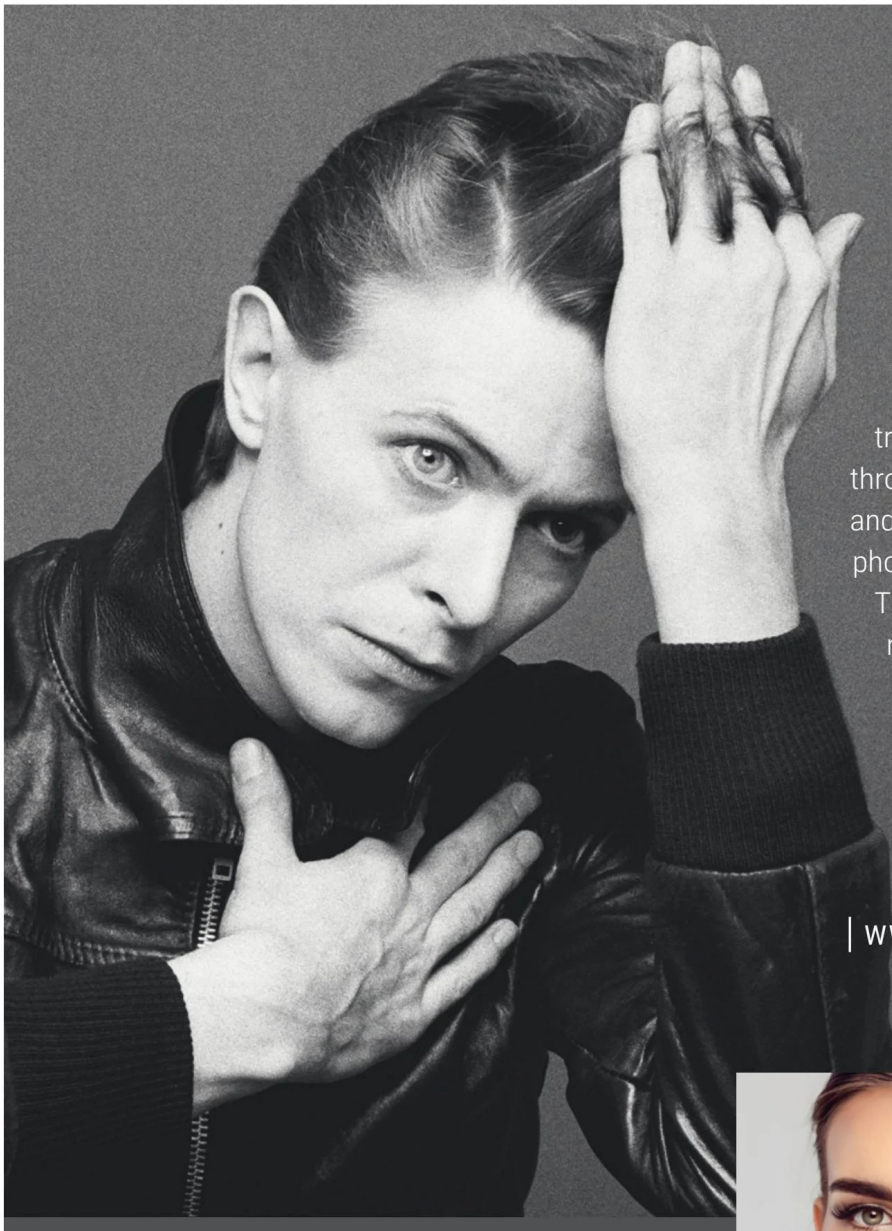
WORDS BY IAIN BLACKWELL

GOODWOOD GOES ECCENTRIC

The Goodwood Festival of Speed 2025, from July 10-13, is about to feel the pulse of a reimagined motoring heritage. Eccentrica, the San Marino-based brand behind the stunning reinterpretation of the iconic Lamborghini Diablo-based platform, will make its official debut showcasing integrated cutting-edge technology and fine craftsmanship.

WWW.ECCENTRICACARS.COM / WWW.GOODWOOD.COM





ICONIC BOWIE EXHIBITION IN BARCELONA

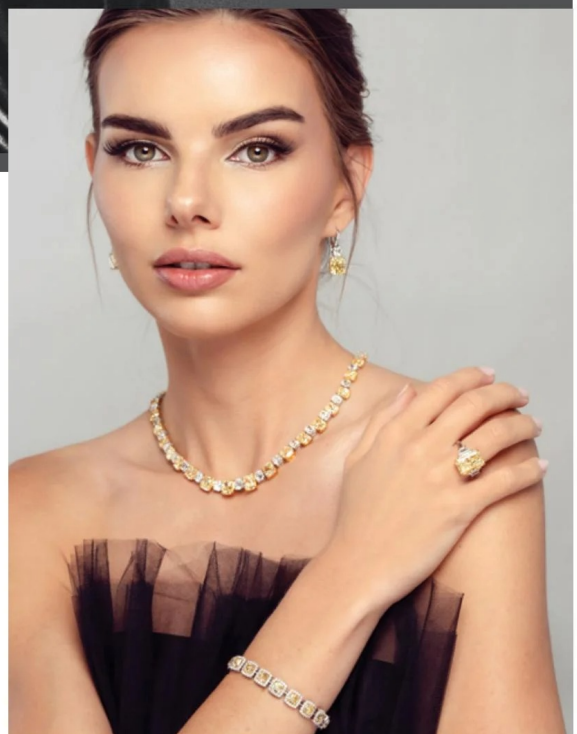
FOTONOSTRUM and ONO Arte present Bowie X Sukita, an exhibition that pays tribute to the legendary artist through the unique friendship and lens of renowned Japanese photographer Masayoshi Sukita. This captivating exhibition, running until September 15, features more than 70 iconic photographs that span several decades.

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NHOW GAMING STUDIO IN BERLIN

nhow Hotels & Resorts is setting new industry standards in the field of eGaming with the launch of its new nhow Gaming Studio. The area has been specially designed for streamers, content creators, gamers, and agencies. It features five gaming stations for players and one for coaches and is perfectly equipped for team activities.

| WWW.NHOW-HOTELS.COM



BOCONCEPT INAUGURATES NEW STORE IN MADRID

BoConcept, the Danish contemporary design furniture brand, has opened the doors of its latest store in Madrid on Calle Velázquez, 75. With this launch, the brand now has a total of 13 stores in Spain, and has consolidated its presence in one of the most representative enclaves of interior design and architecture in the capital.

| WWW.BOCONCEPT.COM



LI-ONNA FUSES JAPANESE AND LATIN AMERICAN CUISINE

Li-Onna, the gastronomic hotspot in the Salamanca neighbourhood of Madrid, has reaffirmed its reputation as one of the leading restaurants in the capital with the expansion of its menu to include a selection of new dishes that continue to explore the combination of Japanese haute cuisine with the warmth of Latin American influences.

| WWW.LIONNA.ES

BABĒL: CELEBRATION

At a time when nightlife has become somewhat predictable, BABĒL in Ibiza has emerged to reignite its soul. Under the creative vision of Waël Mechri-Yver, founder of BABĒL and the award-winning club Gospël (SoHo, NYC), the iconic venue will usher in a glamorous era of immersive nightlife inspired by Studio 54 on Ibiza's shores, with a special celebration uniting many visiting artists on July 10.

| WWW.WELCOMETOIBIZA.COM



MEZE AUDIO – EMPYREAN II

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| WWW.MEZEAUDIO.COM



A full-page portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black dress with a wide, draped shawl over her shoulders. Her accessories include a chunky gold chain belt, a pearl necklace, and a smartwatch on her left wrist. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with a light-colored stone wall and green foliage.

Like many highly qualified young people, it took a while for Krisztina to find her métier, but an invitation to act as an external lecturer at Les Roches Marbella has turned into an associate professorship in an environment where she has come to thrive.

A PERFECT MATCH

DR. KRISZTINA SOREG AND LES ROCHES

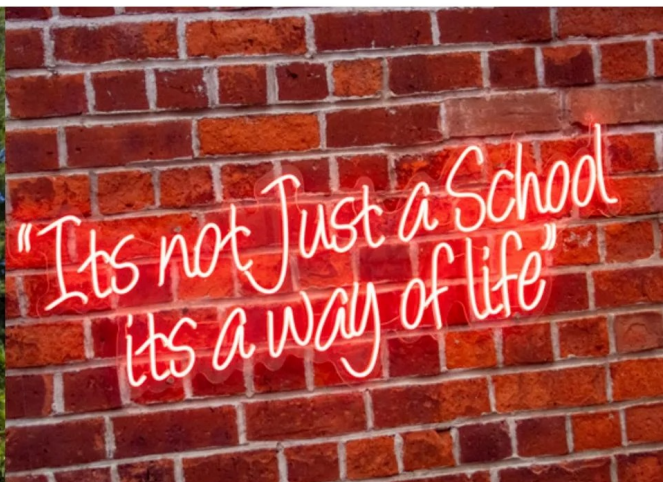
WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**

“I come from a household where language, communication, and storytelling took a central role,” says Krisztina. “My mother is an English teacher and my father a journalist, so it seemed like the apple had fallen far from the tree when I chose to study economics at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, followed by a Ph.D. in Economics and Management Sciences from the University of Sopron, also in Hungary. What’s more, I felt a little lost, as my final graduation coincided with the second wave of the Financial Crisis, and in spite of my qualifications it was hard to find a job. Suddenly, it started to feel like I may have chosen the wrong path after all.”

It is hard for a young person not to begin to doubt themselves under such circumstances, but Krisztina eventually got a start with a law firm where she would fulfil an increasingly important role as a financial assistant preparing large numbers of foreign-currency denominated mortgages for refinancing in euros. “It was after several years in this role that I pursued a Ph.D. and had the good fortune of studying under an inspirational professor – not unlike the *Doctor House* character played by Hugh Laurie – so I know just what an important role a professor can play in someone’s life.”

In 2019, Krisztina moved to Spain, settling in the countryside in the picturesque Valle del Guadalhorce area. “I

loved the idea of a life in the sun, and having studied Italian before the transition to Spanish wasn’t too complicated.” That said, she once again struggled to find the right opportunity at first, and after a number of unsatisfactory roles at tertiary education colleges and universities in the region she started to look into ways of supporting the burgeoning tech start-up sector in and around Málaga. “I did a lot of research into the field and the challenges and opportunities it poses, and ended up developing a course for the University of Málaga, which was originally taught online during lockdown. This contribution sparked my passion further towards disruptive innovation.” >



FROM EXTERNAL LECTURER TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

"I love tech and was really getting into it when I received a call from Les Roches asking if I would be interested in a role as a support lecturer. I'm very glad that I said yes, as it's been a perfect fit and a work environment that has allowed me to spread my wings and evolve. I have become a part of the Les Roches culture and love it. This is a great place to work and study – providing full support and encouragement for students and staff members alike."

Krisztina was soon promoted from full-time lecturer to Assistant Professor, and has since taken on the title of Associate Professor, encompassing not only lecturing and tutoring but also research, as well as leadership roles such as coordinating academic pathways and supervising dissertations of graduating students.





"I teach economics and data analytics as it pertains to the hotel and hospitality sectors, including also entrepreneurship and business modelling. It's a wonderful blend of the theoretical and technical know-how you need as a foundation but very clearly applied to your chosen field of work, with a strong focus on developing managerial and entrepreneurial skills," says Krisztina. "I mentor students to develop their own business case studies, to which we then add the economic and business management knowledge. It is very focused on solution creating, critical and analytical thinking, presentation and communication skills, all the while emphasising the sense of service excellence that Les Roches stands for. After all, what you do in hospitality is

invest in human capital."

Krisztina also teaches executive MBA courses at Les Roches' original campus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. "Having experienced professionals from the hospitality sector as students adds another dimension to my role, and with the recent opening of another campus in Abu Dhabi it may grow further," says the young professor and mentor who also finds the time to host episodes of 'Les Roches Talks!', a newly launched business podcast to mentor students as part of the SPARK Innovation Sphere who develop startup business ideas, as well as to carry out research and publish academic papers.

"It's a busy but very fulfilling role in a prestigious organisation that has been ranked #2 in the world for

Hospitality and Leisure Management in the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2025. It has also been recognised with the 'University of Applied Sciences Institute' status, by the Swiss Accreditation Council (SAC), and accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Having found such a rewarding role in a beautiful living environment as this makes me one of those lucky people who have truly found their métier, and this drive to find the passion in your career is what I wish to instill in our students too."

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01AB66184/**

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FINCA de J A S M I N E S K Y V I L L A S

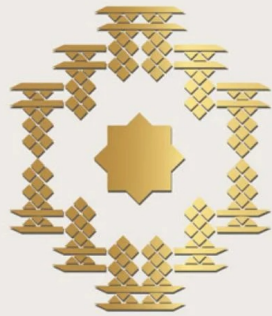
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THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS

» Genre: Superhero

» Director: Matt Shakman (*WandaVision*)

» Cast: Pedro Pascal, Ralph Ineson, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn, Ebon Moss-Bachrach

Four brave astronauts head into space, returning with incredible powers. These intrepid souls are known as *The Fantastic Four* and in their latest adventure, they are called upon to save the planet from destruction. Their enemy is the cosmic being Galactus, whom actor Ralph Ineson describes as “a humongous, 14-billion-year-old, planet-devouring cosmic vampire.” This being is joined by the Silver Surfer, a metallic-skinned herald who travels through space on a surfboard-like vehicle. The film’s heroes, meanwhile, are aided by their robot companion H.E.R.B.I.E. (Humanoid Experimental Robot B-Type Integrated Electronics), who provides comic relief amid the action.



UNA PELÍCULA DE JAMES GUNN

MIRA
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S U P E R M A N

SUPERMAN

» **Genre:** Superhero

» **Director:** James Gunn (*Guardians of the Galaxy*)

» **Cast:** David Corenswet, Rachel Brosnahan, Nicholas Hoult

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's the new Superman! Henry Cavill fans may lament his decision to pass on the cape, but the Man of Steel is a legendary figure, and he lives on thanks to DC Studios and a brand-new star, David Corenswet. Expect big things from Corenswet; he is a highly skilled actor whom director James Gunn defines as one of the most perfectionistic cast members he has worked with. The film begins with Superman being questioned about the actions he undertook to stop a war. He finds the meaning he seeks in his past in Smallville while battling his arch-nemesis, Lex Luthor (played by Nicholas Hoult).





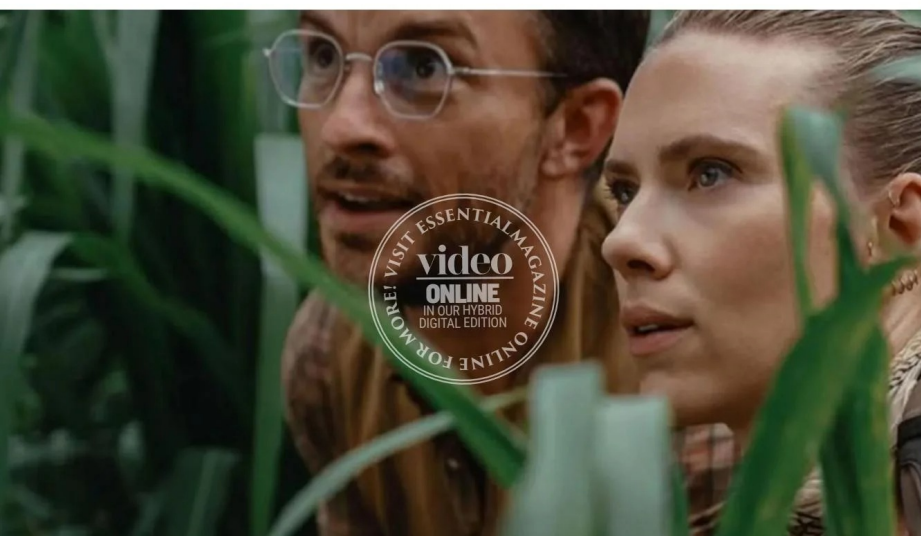
HEADS OF STATE

» **Genre:** Comedy

» **Director:** Ilya Naishuller (*Hardcore Henry*)

» **Cast:** Idris Elba, John Cena, Priyanka Chopra Jonas

In this Prime Video film, Idris Elba plays the Prime Minister of the UK, and John Cena plays the U.S. President. The two are staunch rivals who have little in common. However, when they become targets of a powerful enemy, they are forced to join forces and embark on a perilous, multinational mission together. Teaming up with them is a brilliant MI6 agent (Priyanka Chopra Jonas), who helps them thwart a conspiracy that threatens the free world.



ELIO

» **Genre:** Animation

» **Directors:** Madeline Sharafian (*Burrow*), Domee Shi (*Bao*), Adrian Molina (*Coco*)

» **Voices:** Zoe Saldña, Jameela Jamil, Brandon Moon

Elio Solis is an eleven-year-old boy who accidentally becomes the intergalactic ambassador of Planet Earth after he is beamed up to the 'Communiverse' by a group of aliens. Elio must understand the alien life forms and solve a problem of intergalactic proportions, all while discovering his true place in the universe.



JURASSIC WORLD REBIRTH

» **Genre:** Adventure

» **Director:** Gareth Edwards (*Monsters*)

» **Cast:** Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali, Rupert Friend

The latest film in the *Jurassic* series takes place five years after the events of *Jurassic World Dominion*. The Earth's environment has become inhospitable for dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals, and they are now living in remote tropical areas. Zora Bennett (Scarlett Johansson), a 'mission specialist', is recruited by a pharmaceutical company to work with a palaeontologist and a team leader on a top-secret mission. Their aim is to locate three prehistoric species whose biomaterials hold the key to a drug capable of saving countless human lives. 

COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW SERIES



THE SANDMAN

S2 (NETFLIX)

» **Genre:** Fantasy » **Creator:** Neil Gaiman (*Good Omens*)

» **Cast:** Gwendolyn Christie, Mason Alexander Park, Jenna Coleman

The Sandman, a comic book series penned by Neil Gaiman, begins when Morpheus, the King of Dreams, returns after years of imprisonment, embarking on a journey across worlds to find what was stolen from him and restore his power. Season One ended with Lucifer being visited by the demon lord Azazel, who announced that the armies of hell wished to march against the Dreaming and were waiting for the Morningstar's approval to commence their attack. Instead, Lucifer announces that he will do "something that I have never done before. Something that will make God absolutely livid and bring Morpheus to his knees." His plan is to leave Morpheus with the key to hell and all the responsibility it entails.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

S6 (PRIME VIDEO)

» **Genre: Drama » Creator: Bruce Miller
(ER) » Cast: Elisabeth Moss, Max
Minghella, Josh Charles**

The last episode of *The Handmaid's Tale* has just dropped, capping off an excellent season that is not to be missed by fans of this dystopian tale. The sixth and final season of the series finds June (Elisabeth Moss) torn between the two loves of her life: her husband, Luke, and her lover, Nick. Serena, meanwhile, has not only found her way back to Gilead but also managed to find a new groom. The brave handmaids are ready to take up arms and eliminate anyone who gets in the way of freedom.

Will they finally break free from the oppressive regime that has taken the lives of countless women?



FOUNDATION ***S3 (APPLE TV+)***

» **Genre:** Science Fiction

» **Creators:** David S. Goyer
(*Man of Steel*) and Josh Friedman
(*Black Dahlia*)

» **Cast:** Jared Harris, Lee Pace,
Lou Llobell

Set 152 years after the events of Season 2, the *Foundation* has grown significantly while the Cleonic Dynasty's empire has weakened. The two galactic powers form a tenuous alliance, but this peace is threatened by a powerful warlord known as The Mule, who seeks to conquer the galaxy through violence and mind control. Hari Seldon, Gaal Dornick, the Cleons, and Demerzel participate in an intergalactic power struggle, and the question of who will survive or perish hangs in the air. The story continues the epic quest to save humanity and rebuild civilisation amid the decline of the Galactic Empire.





TOO MUCH **SI (NETFLIX)**

» **Genre:** Romantic Comedy » **Creators:** Lena Dunham (*Girls*) and Luis Felber (*Catherine Called Birdy*) » **Cast:** Will Sharpe, Megan Stalter, Aylin Scott

Jessica, a mid-thirties workaholic, breaks up with the man she thought was her soulmate and begins to feel increasingly isolated in her hometown of New York. When a job opening comes up in London, she decides to make a move, thinking it is the perfect opportunity to distance herself from the past and discover what it feels like to be single again. However, when she meets Felix, an indie musician with undeniable charm, she finds that their unusual connection is impossible to ignore. Jessica soon realises that sometimes, love shows up where you least expect it.



UNTAMED **SI (NETFLIX)**

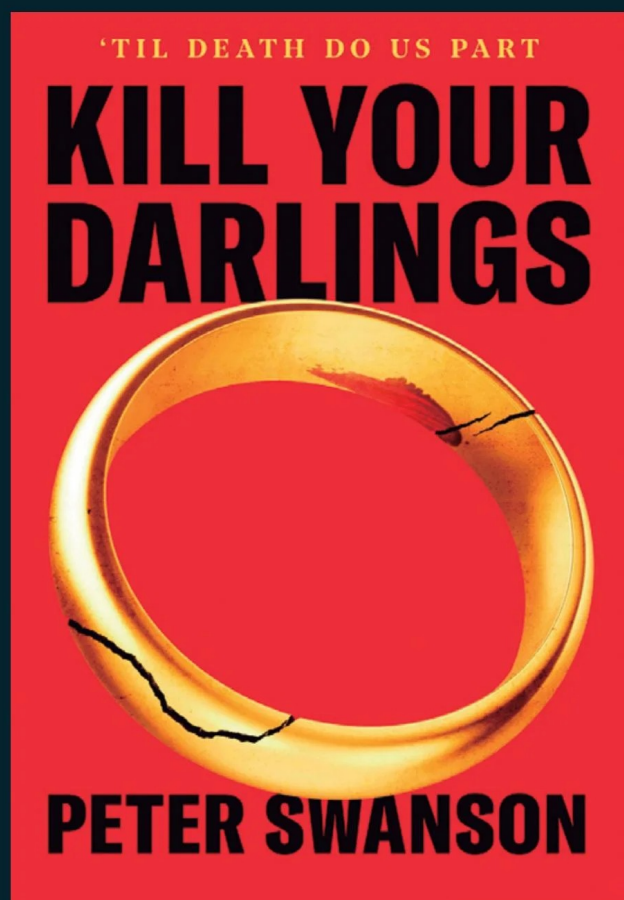
» **Genre:** Thriller
» **Creators:** Mark L. Smith (*The Revenant*), Elle Smith (*The Marsh King's Daughter*)
» **Cast:** Eric Bana, Sam Neill, Lily Santiago

Untamed is centred on Kyle Turner (Eric Bana), a special agent who enforces the law within the vast lands that make up Yosemite National Park. When a brutal death occurs, Turner must uncover the secrets the park hides while confronting shadows from his own past. The killer knows the park just as well as he does, which makes the task especially challenging. Turner is accompanied on his investigation by Naya Vasquez (Lily Santiago), a rookie park ranger who is more accustomed to city life than to the wilds of Yosemite, but whose talent and speed are a big aid to the seasoned agent. **e**

READING

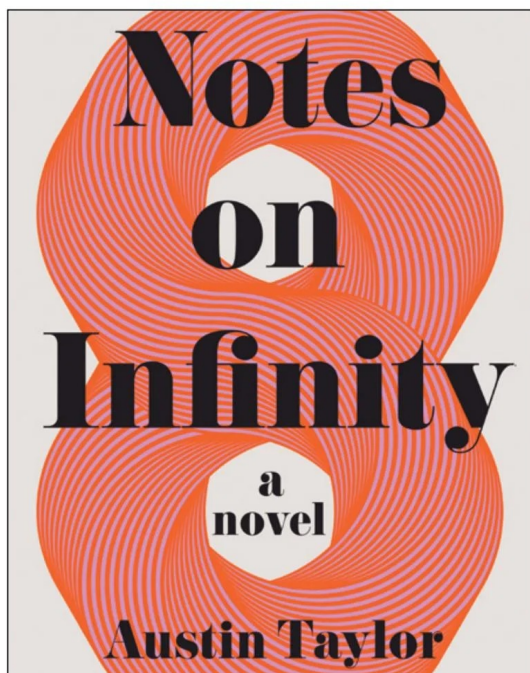
SUMMER IS HEATING UP WITH PAGE-TURNERS
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WORDS **ALICIA DUGGAN** OF THE BOOKSHOP IN SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA , CC LA COLONIA LOCAL 21,
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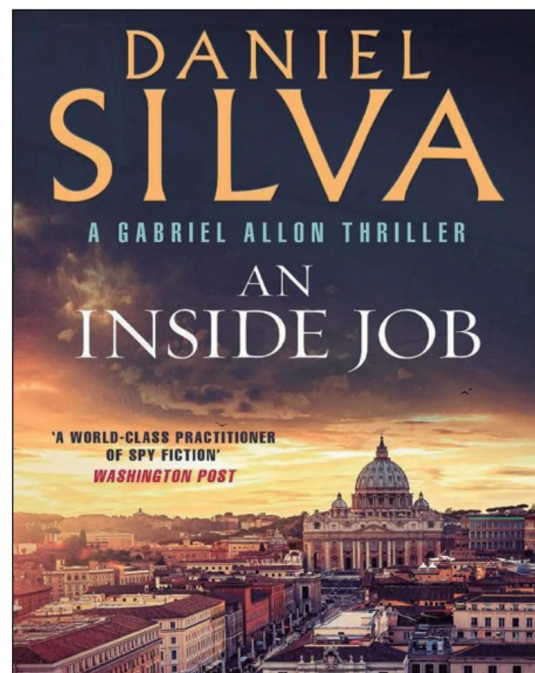
KILL YOUR DARLINGS *BY PETER SWANSON*

Bestselling author Peter Swanson delivers a gripping and original mystery that traces a marriage backwards to uncover a devastating truth. Thom and Wendy Graves seem to have a comfortable life in coastal Massachusetts. He teaches literature, she is a published poet, and their son is grown and thriving. But Wendy has murder on her mind. As the story moves in reverse, key moments from their decades together slowly reveal the darkness at the core of their relationship. From milestone birthdays to professional betrayals, each chapter peels back another layer of their shared past until one terrible secret is laid bare. With masterful pacing and elegant structure, *Kill Your Darlings* is a compelling psychological portrait of a couple bound by guilt and wondering if their future might depend on one final, fatal act.



NOTES ON INFINITY
BY AUSTIN TAYLOR

At Harvard, brilliant young students Zoe and Jack make a discovery that could change humanity forever: a drug that may cure ageing. Drawn together by ambition and intellect, they secretly develop the treatment, eventually leaving university to launch a biotech startup that propels them into global fame and staggering success. But just as their creation begins to reshape the world, a shocking accusation threatens everything they've built. As their relationship strains under the weight of secrecy, power, and ethical questions, the pair must confront what they're willing to risk for science, success, and each other. *Notes on Infinity* is a sharp, compelling debut about genius, trust, and the consequences of chasing immortality.



AN INSIDE JOB
BY DANIEL SILVA

Gabriel Allon is back in a gripping new thriller that blends art, espionage, and murder, as a stolen da Vinci masterpiece draws the legendary spy into a dangerous web of deception. When a mysterious woman is found dead in the Venetian Lagoon and a long-lost painting vanishes from the Vatican during a suspicious blackout, Gabriel is pulled into a high-stakes hunt through Europe's most elite auction houses and shadowy underworlds. As secrets surface and powerful figures close ranks, he must navigate ruthless criminals, corrupt financiers, and a mystery that reaches the heart of the Vatican. From the splendour of Venice to a deadly showdown in St Peter's Square, *An Inside Job* is a sophisticated and propulsive tale of betrayal and ambition from one of the world's finest writers of international intrigue.

SECRETS OF THE STARLIT SEA BY SANTA MONTEFIORE

When psychic detective Pixie Tate enters New York's grand Aldershoff Hotel, she is drawn into a haunting that spans a century and leads her to a fateful moment in history. Using her gift to travel through time, she uncovers long-buried secrets while navigating the glittering world of the Gilded Age and the danger that lurks beneath its glamour. As she races to save the souls trapped by tragedy, Pixie must decide whether to honour her promise or risk everything for a love she thought was lost. *Secrets of the Starlit Sea* is a sweeping, romantic mystery filled with history, heart, and the timeless pull of destiny.



MEN IN LOVE BY IRVINE WELSH

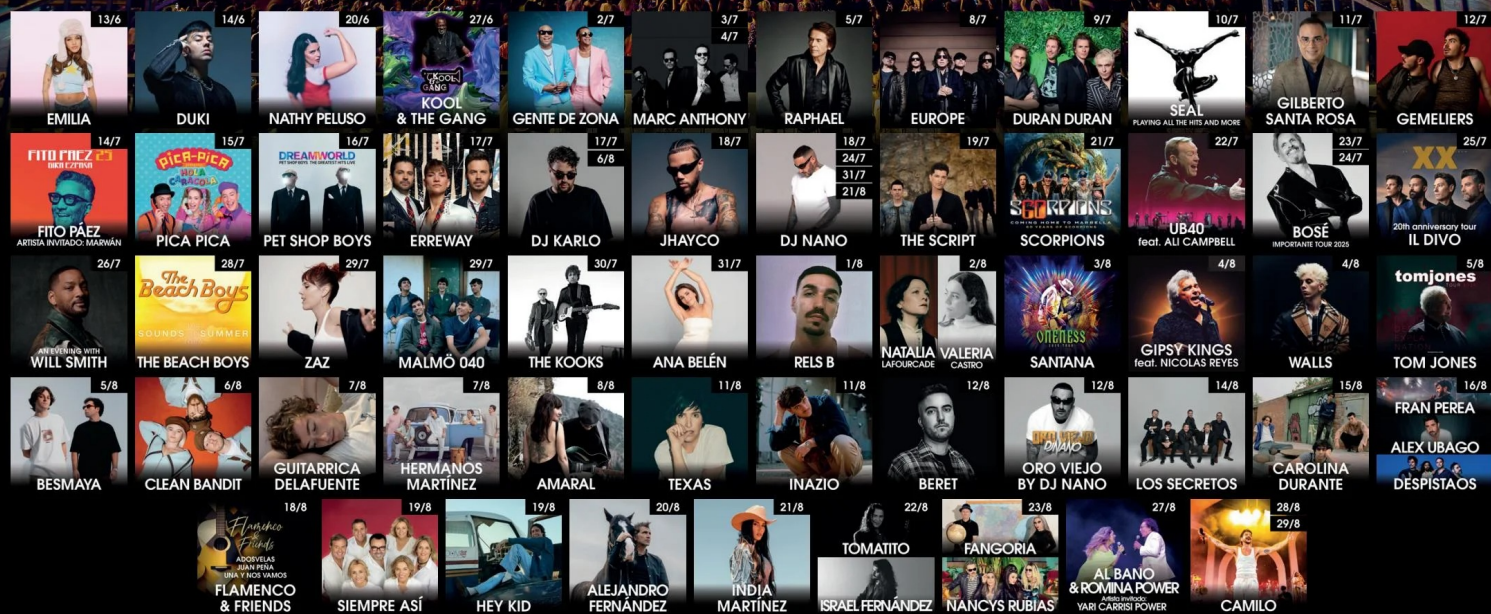
Irvine Welsh returns with a bold, electric new chapter in the *Trainspotting* universe, as Renton, Sick Boy, Spud, and Begbie swap heroin for house music and heartbreak. It's the late 1980s, and as Thatcher's Britain begins to shift, the group is scattered and searching for something real. Love, sex, rave culture, and the dream of reinvention pull them forward, each chasing moments of connection and escape. When Sick Boy falls for Amanda, a glamorous and wealthy outsider, he sees a future he never imagined, one he's desperate to claim. But as the decade closes and the 1990s begin, old habits and deeper truths start to surface. Darkly funny, blisteringly sharp, and emotionally raw, *Men in Love* is a story about yearning, identity, and whether love can ever truly save us from ourselves. 

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AI has become a useful ally for research, grammar checking, and idea generation for everyone from CEOs to journalists, academics, marketing professionals, and technological specialists. With new platforms emerging every few months, however, users may be a bit confused about which tool to use. In this post, we have a look at the Big 4 tools: ChatGPT, Perplexity, Copilot, and Gemini, analysing their strengths and

USES. WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

THE BIG 4 AI TOOLS

FOR RESEARCH AND OTHER VITAL ACADEMIC AND WORK TASKS

CHATGPT (OPEN AI): AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR WRITING, MARKETING TASKS, AND IDEA GENERATION

ChatGPT is a fantastic daily ally for tasks such as researching ideas, suggesting the structure of an article or outline, and checking the tone of texts. It can summarise large volumes of text, translate language, and write stories and reports.

It is widely used for code assistance as well, as it can generate code snippets for data cleaning, visualisation, or statistical analysis.

This tool also helps with editing, proofreading, and aligning text with a chosen style. For instance, you can ask it to lend your texts a more academic, conversational, or commercial tone.

Paid versions of ChatGPT can search the web in real-time, but if you're using the free version, you may notice flaws like

a lack of direct source attribution, lack of depth when answering technical queries, and 'hallucinations' (the provision of incorrect information). This is why you should always verify your sources, especially when you're writing an academic article. All AI platforms can sometimes have glitches or provide erroneous information.

» **BEST FOR:** Generating content, brainstorming, summarising texts, refining language, and obtaining coding assistance for simple tasks.

PERPLEXITY:

A RESEARCH SPECIALIST

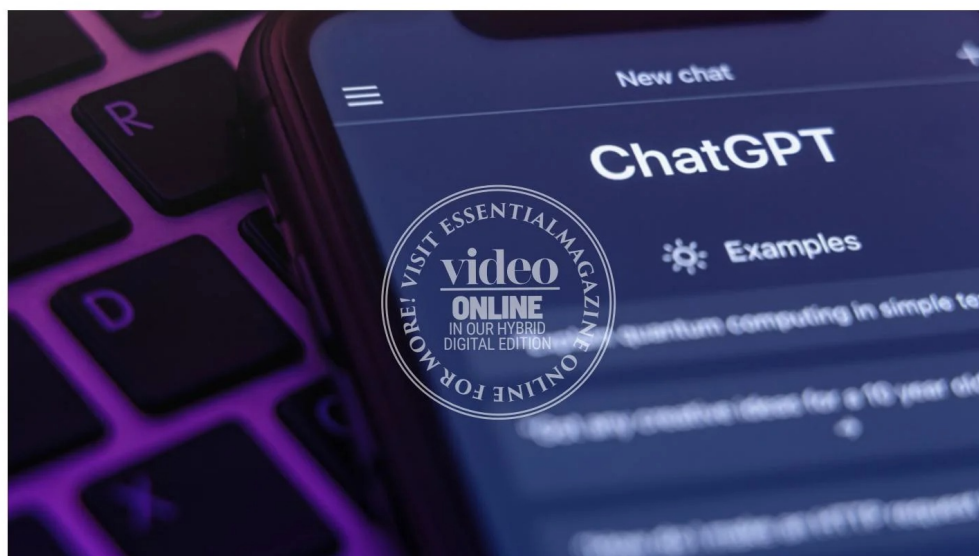
Perplexity is ideal for writing that requires cited sources, making it particularly suitable for in-depth academic research and verifying information. It pulls real-time information from the web and has a 'Research' mode that conducts in-depth analysis, reads hundreds of sources,

and delivers detailed reports. You can tailor your searches for specific categories like 'Academic', 'Writing', or 'Business', thus making your search more relevant.

Perplexity allows users to upload PDFs and documents for AI analysis. This is ideal for summarising lengthy papers or simplifying complex language. It may not be ideal for highly specialised or theoretical research that requires in-depth human reasoning, but it is an excellent retriever of facts.

Of all the Big 4 tools, Perplexity is my go-to for research, as it provides sources in an easy-to-check manner in the form of superscripted numbers (like footnotes). Just click on the number, and you will be taken to the source from which the information was obtained.

» **BEST FOR:** Students, journalists, market analysts, researchers, and anyone wishing to fact-check. ›



GEMINI (GOOGLE AI):

A MULTIMODAL INTEGRATOR

One of the unique strengths of Gemini is its multimodal capacities; this tool has the ability to process and understand not only text, but also images, video, and audio inputs simultaneously. This makes it a handy tool for research involving different types of data. I recently tried Gemini for the first time and was impressed by the detail of the answers provided, as well as the long list of references at the end of the text. It is capable of conducting in-depth research, which can be utilised for lesson planning, client reports, articles, and both general and academic purposes. Its 1.5 Pro version is particularly efficient, as it offers a two-million-token context window that allows

it to process vast amounts of information in a single query. That means it can analyse long research papers or complex data sets and summarise the information for users in much simpler language if the user so desires.

» **BEST FOR:** Researchers working with various types of data.

COPILOT (MICROSOFT):

ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY

Copilot works seamlessly within Microsoft products like Edge, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, making it convenient for those who use these tools daily. Like other tools, it can summarise web content, suggest ideas for articles, and help build outlines for essays, reports, blog posts, manuscripts, and academic work.

Copilot has a 'Deep Research' mode that allows you to commence research on practically any topic by obtaining a multipage report. Like Perplexity, it scours the web in real time to provide up-to-date information and helpful summaries with sources. It can perform some mathematical functions and help analyse data within Excel files.

» **BEST FOR:** Microsoft users, quick research, summaries, and content creation.

This article has only skimmed the surface, as there are countless additional AI tools for various purposes, ranging from academic research to coding and design. We hope we've inspired you to try at least one tool for your research, work, or entertainment! **e**

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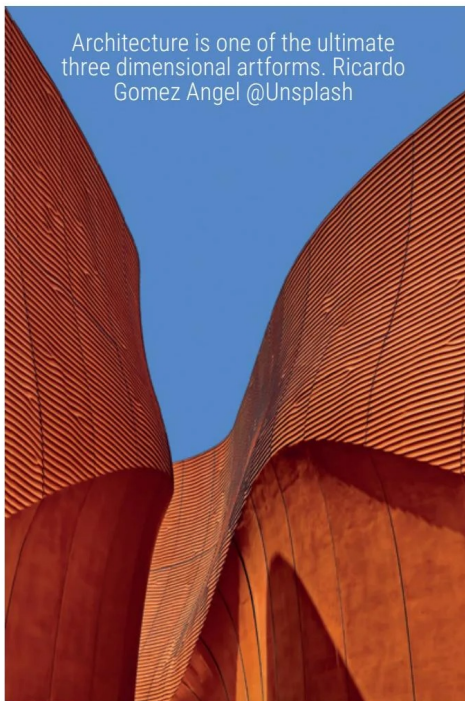


THE ART OF...

We use the word 'art' when we speak of paintings, sculptures, the performing arts, literature, and of course music and dance, but in reality there is art in so much more, including the art of living itself.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ADOBE STOCK & UNSPLASH**

Where the museum is also an artwork Leo Manjarrez @Unsplash



Architecture is one of the ultimate three dimensional artforms. Ricardo Gomez Angel @Unsplash



Giving shape in sculpture is a classical artform Jack Hamilton @Unsplash

Art can be defined in different ways using distinct criteria. First and foremost, it is what can be called a cultural activity that draws upon creativity and technical skill to produce works for the senses, be it visual in the form of paintings or dance, auditory and tactile in the case of sculptures or the music that we hear. Indeed, art is the ultimate expression of human creativity and inspiration and some say it is divinely inspired, for sometimes it is hard to explain the sudden bursts of brilliance that have led to the creation of masterpieces.

While much of art is sensory in nature, appealing in the first sense to our sight, touch, and hearing, its true impact is deeper than just being pretty. Music, works of art, and dance performances

can affect our moods, lifting us up, stirring up emotions such as sadness or evoking a sense of romanticism. Art is at once abstract and descriptive of everyday life; it can be highly intellectualised and yet also very intuitive, so it also involves the mind and soul, and as such is not only the ultimate expression of joy or sadness but also an outlet for social and political commentary. ›

Literature especially is a form of art that takes us on a journey, once again stirring emotions and sparking the imagination as the words become visions in our minds. They make us think, they make us feel, and sometimes they even make us dream. When you read a book the imagery that accompanies it in your mind is often rich and varied – like a film without technical or budgetary limitations. ›

Photography catches moments as they happen, freezing them in time and adding a sense of tension or drama, especially if the person behind the lens has been able to capture a moment of beauty, importance, or even just an instance of everyday life.

Films tell a story in motion, the words blending with the images to merge two artforms as it were, and create

another. It has been the most popular artform for over a century now, entertaining as it inspires, informs, and provokes introspection. Movies supplanted paintings as the ultimate form of art at the beginning of the 20th century, but dance and music have been unfailingly with us since the dawn of time. Just as visual arts have evolved from cave carvings through to classical

painting to modern abstract expressions, so dance and music have gone through millenia of changes, producing both ancient folkloristic traditions that live on in modern times, and a succession of styles and waves that have carried us from religious rites and canting through orchestral classical music and traditional folk genres to their modern successors. ›



Art in three dimensions. Kitera Dent @Unsplash

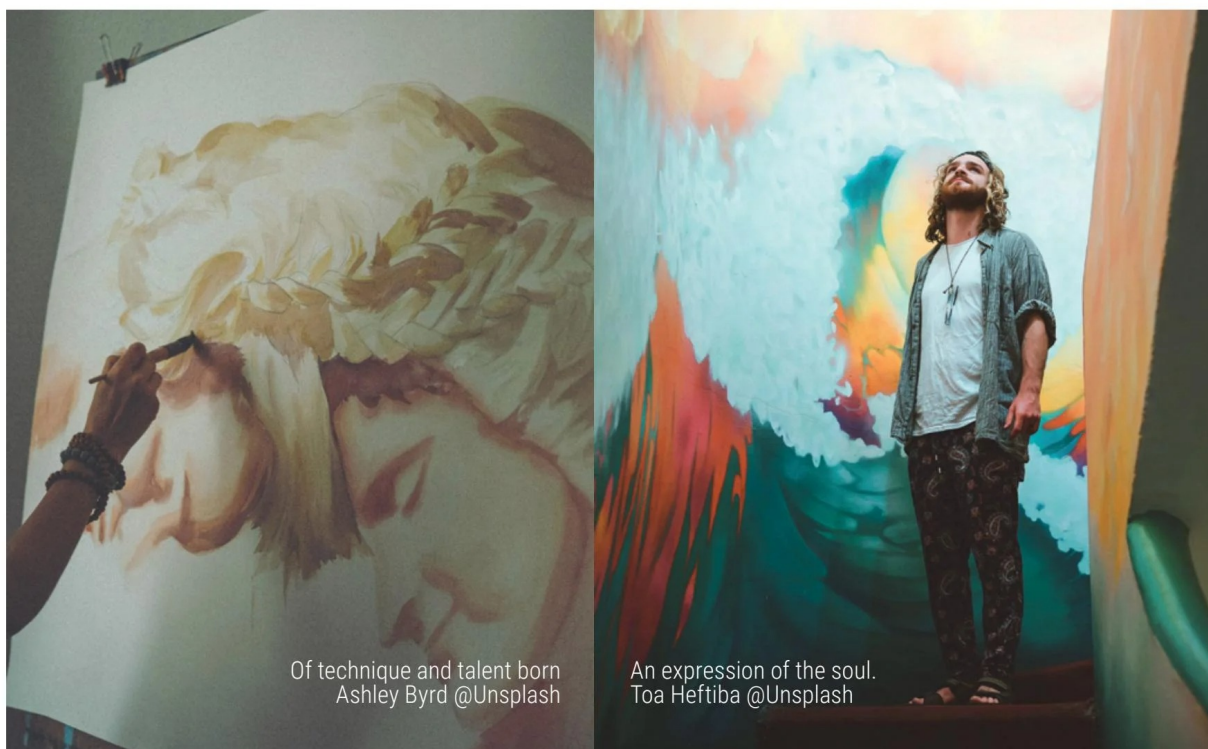
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Jazz, like Samba, Salsa, and many other musical forms from the Americas, is a meeting of European and African traditions that has created new fusions out of a rich fount of inspiration. The indigenous music of the Americas, like that in Africa itself, still carried ancient tribal rhythms, while Asian music – from the Middle East to the Orient – is inextricably imbued with cultural and religious connotations that are deeply embedded in its societies. Modern music, too, has its roots in the mix of African rhythms, soul and the blues,

and European folk in the USA that led to country, jazz, and then the birth of the 'modern' genre with the emergence of Rock & Roll in the 1950s. The likes of Elvis paved the way for the British wave of the 1960s, headlined by The Beatles before the electric guitars of The Rolling Stones and others ushered in the era of rock.

Rock and pop music have coexisted as the main forms of modern music since the 1960s, mixing with other elements to evolve into rap, R&B, funk, acid jazz, indie, and heavy metal, among others. Electronics made

an appearance through the original 1970s synth pop of Jean Michel Jarre, Gary Numan, and other pioneers who paved the way for later techno genres. Music and dance, like other artforms, continue to evolve as they absorb and reflect the cultural influences of their time. Art is in fact a perfect reflection of the zeitgeist of an era, but this is also true of other forms of expression that are less commonly associated with the word 'art' but nonetheless fall under its broad umbrella.

DESIGN

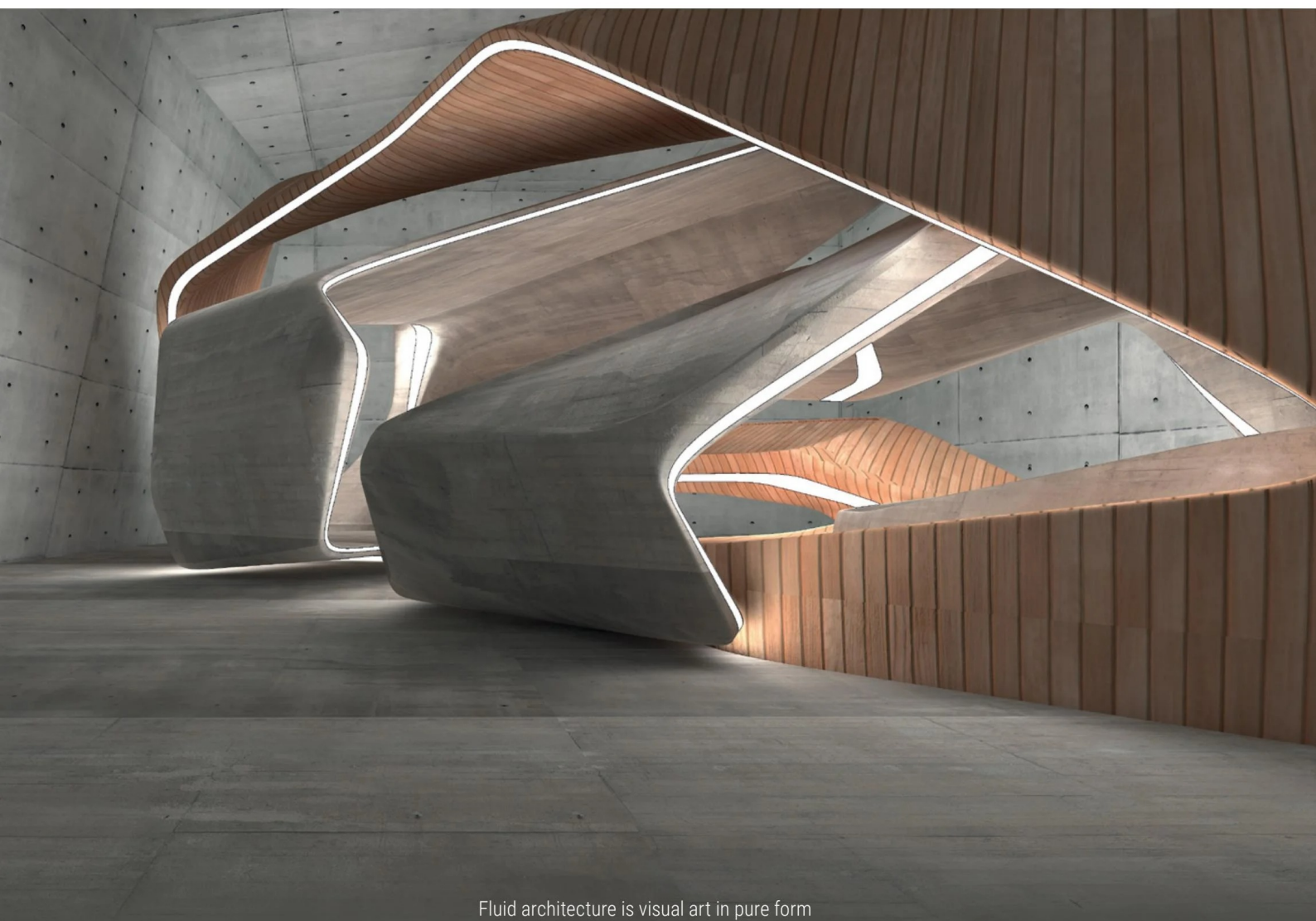
Design, in all its forms, is clearly an artform, and provides an extension from painting via the graphic arts and advertising to architecture, interior styling, furniture, and industrial design, through to fashion and the shaping of all those many items that surround us. They are at the heart of human creation, be it of buildings, landscapes, interior decor, furniture, clothing, cars, aeroplanes, boats, yachts, and every other kind of appliance and item you can think of, from machinery to glassware, cutlery, and mobile phones. ›



Industrial design is an art in itself
Riley @Unsplash

Dance art in the
classical form: ballet

Liel Anapolsky
@Unsplash



Fluid architecture is visual art in pure form

Even fonts, the letter type used for text, go through phases of evolution, fads, and trends, and these in turn reflect our collective state of mind at the time – i.e. the zeitgeist. Practical items are given a style that fits in with the trends and technical realities of the moment, and the development of new technologies and materials has opened up a whole new world of possibilities, as seen especially in the design of yachts and sports cars. Art therefore also exists not just in the many styles of architecture and decor, but also in the creation of cars, aeroplanes, yachts, cruise ships, luxury and everyday items, and of course also in fashion. ›

For this reason, top fashion designers and architects are as celebrated as the most famous artists, if not more so, but the ultimate form of art, the one that ties all the above together, is the art of living. While somewhat abstract in definition, as it can mean different things to different people, the Art of Living relates to the ability of gliding through life seemingly effortlessly and in harmony with one's natural and human surroundings. It doesn't mean being 'happy' all the time, as this is neither possible nor desirable, but rather relates to a person's capacity for inner peace and contentment, a life without ups that are too high and downs that are too low, the ability to deal with problems and challenges gracefully and above all – the art of enjoying life to the full, risks, changes and all. ›

Fashion is an
ever-changing
art that reflects
its era like no
other
Dulkimso
Hakim Santoso
@Unsplash



When someone reaches this level they do not only appreciate and recognise the beauty that surrounds us, whether it is art or otherwise, but they also tend to be inspired to create beauty, influenced strongly by the finest artform of all – the natural world that surrounds and nourishes us. 



Life is art
George Pagan
@Unsplash



Even engineering style architecture can be a work of art. Adrian Cujo @Unsplash



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DISCOVERED BY **MADDIE QUINN**

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perfect balance. This is outdoor relaxation, elevated.

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DECO REVIVAL

Divine Savages channels Gatsby-era glamour with Gershwing, a bold Art Deco-inspired wallpaper that radiates

drama and decadence. With its feathered motif and metallic shimmer, this print transforms bathrooms and beyond into lush, cinematic spaces. Pair it with luxe tiles, fan-shaped mirrors, and glimmering fixtures for a full-on Deco dream.

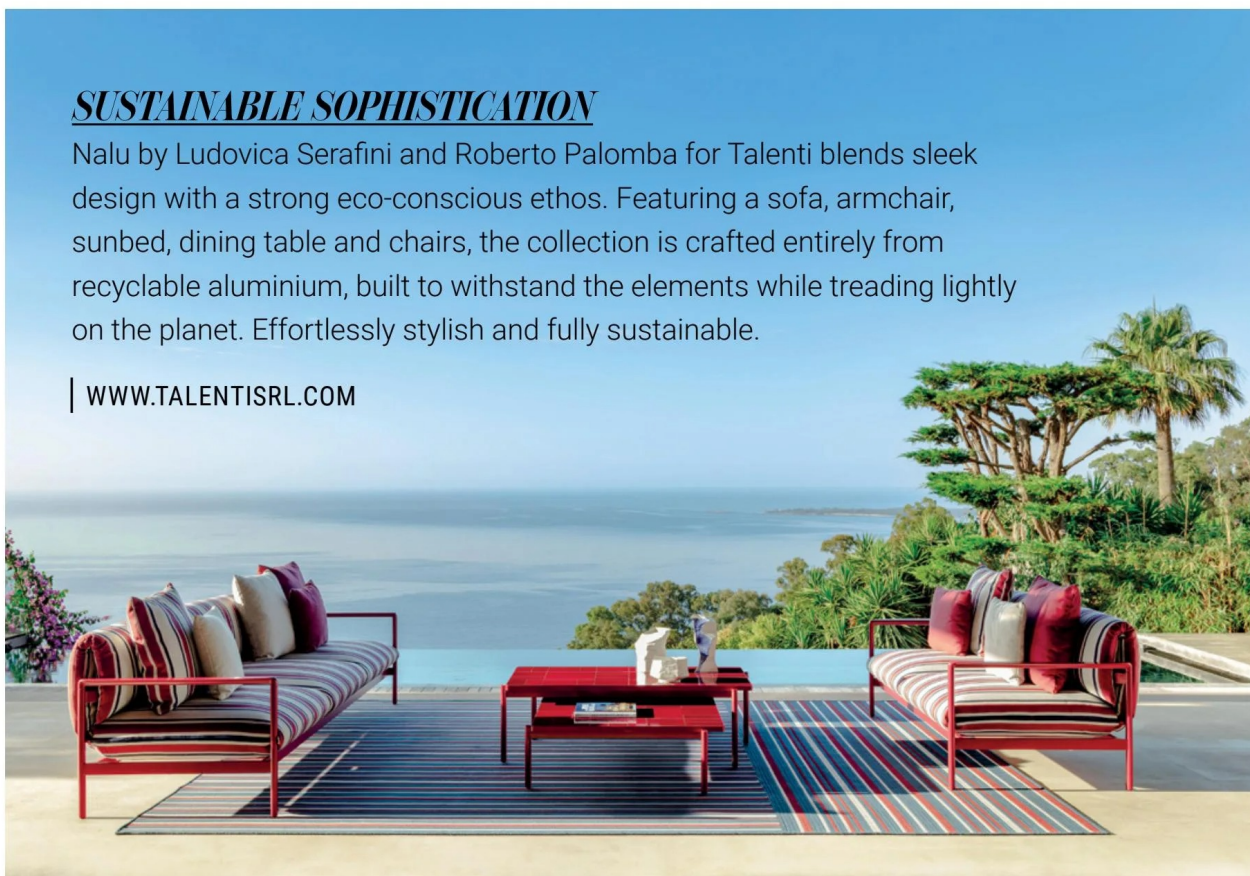
| WWW.DIVINESAVAGES.COM



SUSTAINABLE SOPHISTICATION

Nalu by Ludovica Serafini and Roberto Palomba for Talenti blends sleek design with a strong eco-conscious ethos. Featuring a sofa, armchair, sunbed, dining table and chairs, the collection is crafted entirely from recyclable aluminium, built to withstand the elements while treading lightly on the planet. Effortlessly stylish and fully sustainable.

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BOHO GLOW

Embrace the carefree charm of summer 2025 with Nedgis' bohemian lighting collection, a celebration of natural materials, soft textures, and globe-trotting spirit. From rattan pendants to handcrafted floor lamps, each piece brings warmth, brightness, and authenticity to interiors inspired by nature and nomadic elegance.

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A TOAST TO DESIGN

Laskasas brings its signature craftsmanship to the Wayford Whiskey Room, an intimate and elegant space curated by Brownlow Interior Design. At its heart: three custom Estoril Bar Stools, reimagined to suit the room's warm, tactile palette. The result is a harmonious blend of function, mood, and refined style, a masterclass in bespoke interior design.

| WWW.LASKASAS.COM/EN



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PILAR RUBIO

UNVEILS A DREAMY SWIMWEAR CAPSULE WITH SELMARK

DISCOVERED BY **MADDIE QUINN** PHOTOGRAPHY **SELMARK**







TV personality, model, and style icon Pilar Rubio has once again teamed up with Spanish lingerie powerhouse Selmark for a striking new capsule collection: Wonderlust – Mare 25. Known for her bold fashion sense and adventurous spirit, Rubio brings both to the forefront in a line that celebrates ancient beauty, modern design, and the power of self-expression.



The collaboration marks her sixth with Selmark and coincides with the brand's 50th anniversary. The

result? A limited-edition swimwear collection that transforms travel inspiration into wearable art.

Drawing from mythical and remote destinations — Atlantis, Luxor, the Uyuni Salt Flats, Lake Baikal — Rubio channels the mystique of ancient worlds into every piece.

The collection includes six standout designs: three elegant cut-out swimsuits, a sculptural bikini, a daring trikini, and a sheer kimono wrap. Each piece is crafted to flatter diverse body types and seamlessly transition from beach to street. Think plunging necklines, floral patterns, and a nature-inspired palette of deep navy, ivory, taupe, and golden accents — all echoing Rubio's signature fusion of glamour and edge.

"I see swimwear as a way to travel without leaving home," says Pilar.

"With each design, I wanted to evoke stories, places, and sensations.

Selmark has always given me the creative freedom to explore, and that trust shows in every collection we create together."







As one of Spain's most influential media figures — and partner to footballer Sergio Ramos — Rubio brings star power and authenticity to a brand whose ethos is 'made by women, for women.' Her designs highlight femininity with confidence, sophistication, and strength.

Wonderlust — Mare 25 isn't just a swimwear line — it's a celebration of self-expression and timeless allure, made to inspire women everywhere to feel extraordinary in their own skin.

SELMARK

Available at www.selmarklingerie.com, El Corte Inglés, and select boutiques.

DOLCE & GABBANA

BEAUTY



Dolce & Gabbana has always been known for its groundbreaking fashion, accessories, and perfumes... but have you checked out the brand's make-up line? We tried and tested a few items this month and found them to be long-lasting, easy to apply, and of course, stunningly designed. WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

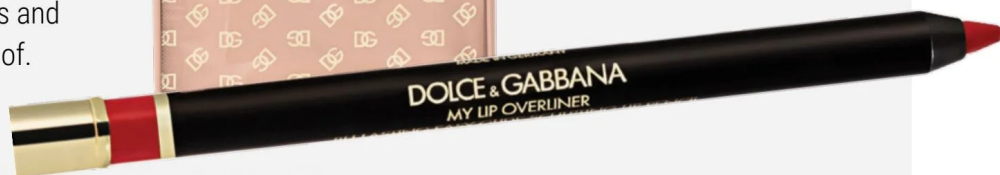
NO-PUFF CAFFEINE PATCHES

Refresh and awaken your under-eye area with these easy-to-apply patches.



MY LIP OVERLINER

An easy-glide lip pencil that provides precision for over eight hours and is smudge- and humidity-proof. Available in 14 shades.



WHAT A GEM! MULTI-WEAR PRECIOUS JEWEL STICKERS

Create a dazzling look for special occasions with 57 multi-coloured Swarovski® crystal stickers in various shapes and sizes, inspired by jewellery from Dolce & Gabbana's Rainbow Collection.





ROSE GLOW CUSHION FOUNDATION

Rose Glow Cushion is a brightening foundation that provides 24 hours of lasting hydration and a glossy skin glow. This innovative creamy formula offers medium buildable coverage and SPF 50 protection.

CHEEKS&EYES MATCH

This lightweight product serves both as a blush and an eyeshadow. It does not crease on the eyelids and keeps skin feeling hydrated throughout the day.

GEMSTONE EYESHADOW PALETTE

This jewel-inspired eyeshadow quad features four shades in three finishes: one soft matte, two metallics, and one duo shimmer.





WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ESSILOR LUXOTTICA**

THE VARILUX® XR SERIES™ PROGRESSIVE LENS AI FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESBYOPIA

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been advancing rapidly in ophthalmology, with a focus in recent years on diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. The latest evidence has revealed, however, that it can also be used to diagnose and manage a broader range of eye conditions, including presbyopia – the natural, age-related condition caused by the hardening and reduced flexibility of the eye's lens.

Typically, presbyopia becomes noticeable in the early to mid-40s and progresses until about age 64. It results in the gradual loss of the eye's ability to focus on nearby objects, such as text on a mobile phone screen or product labels. It is estimated that by 2050, the number of people living with this visual complication will double worldwide, rising from 2 billion to 4 billion.

The use of AI to customise the visual experience makes sense at a time when our eyes are being forced to work

harder than ever to maintain sharp vision. Many of us are always on the move, receiving notifications throughout the day across a wide range of devices – from smartphones and laptops to car navigation systems. Our eyes make over 100,000 movements per day, in all directions and from near to far. It therefore corresponds to invest in cutting-edge lenses that are perfectly adapted to our needs.

In the past, if you had presbyopia, you were typically prescribed a pair of 'reading glasses' or, alternatively, a pair of progressive lenses. Today, AI has enabled the development of a progressive lens that can truly understand how the eyes of people with presbyopia move, making their daily lives more comfortable. A perfect exponent of this technology is the Varilux® XR series™ progressive lens by a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of ophthalmic lenses and frames, EssilorLuxottica. The lens includes a behavioural modelling system developed with AI. It predicts how people with presbyopia look at the objects around them, providing

instant clarity, even when in motion.

For the first time, this generation of lenses takes into account multidirectional eye movements predicted by artificial intelligence, based on more than one million data points. The XR-motion™ technology adjusts both the right and left lenses to the user's visual behaviour profile. Through predictive visual behaviour, each lens is optimised to offer high visual acuity at every focal point. Moreover, the ultra-precise positioning of focus zones ensures natural navigation from near to far distances.

As stated by Susana Lobato, a Varilux specialist from EssilorLuxottica, "Varilux XR progressive lenses incorporate a behavioural artificial intelligence model that predicts gaze tilt and visual accommodation. Thanks to this technology, we can create a digital twin of the user, capable of simulating their visual experience in a 3D environment that replicates daily life situations. The technology enables us to predict how users will perceive the world through their own lenses. ›



Moreover, this predictive model can be customised through Near Vision Behaviour (NVB) measurement. The latter allows us to precisely adapt the location of the near vision zone and the vertical size of the lens zone, aligning them with the natural visual behaviour of each person. The result is a smoother, more comfortable, and personalised visual experience with Varilux XR progressive lenses.”

She explains that the eye examination differs depending on the type of lens required. “Varilux lenses are custom-made, and the

measurement process varies based on the level of personalisation. For example, with Varilux XR Design, standard measurements are taken.

However, for high-end lenses like Varilux XR Pro, additional measurements are needed using high-precision instruments, such as frame-specific parameters, Near Vision Behaviour (NVB), eye size, and dominance. The process may include a comprehensive eye exam, individualised measurements, visual behaviour analysis, and frame assessment. All of this allows for a

highly personalised visual experience and virtually instant adaptation.”

Users of the Varilux® XR series™ are reporting a high level of satisfaction with the new lens. In one recent user test, approximately 95 per cent of patients adapted to the Varilux XR series lenses on the first day, and a similar percentage felt more confident while moving. Users also reported instant sharpness at all distances, precise vision of every detail, and greater confidence and comfort.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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Hospital Quirónsalud Marbella

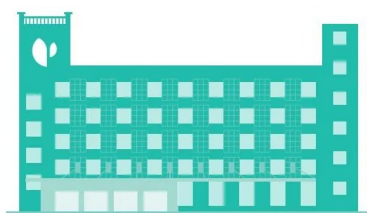
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Thank you Marbella!



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MARBELLA

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Marbella

TOP PET CARRIERS FOR TRAVEL

If you're planning to travel soon with your dog or cat, you may be looking for an ideal carrier for your pet – one that is tough and easy to clean, but above all, ultra-comfortable for your loved one. Below are just a few highly-rated choices. Before choosing a carrier, ensure it matches the measurement requirements stipulated by your airline or transport company. All carriers are available at Amazon and several online pet stores.

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**



1 – SNOOZER ROLL AROUND TRAVEL DOG CARRIER BACKPACK 4-IN-1

A stylish carrier on wheels that serves as a dog backpack, carrier, dog car seat, and pet bed. It has mesh on three sides for optimal visibility.

2 – SLEEPYPOD MOBILE PET BED

This multitasker triples as a car seat, carrier, and sleep station. Once you arrive at your destination, you can unzip it and use it as a pet bed. This carrier received five out of five stars during its crash testing.



3 – MR. PEANUT'S GOLD SERIES DOUBLE EXPANDABLE PET CARRIER

This carry-on pet bag is designed with self-locking zippers that prevent them from sliding up and down, so you don't need to worry about your pet escaping. It also includes an ID tag holder, interior leash attachment, and safety seatbelt.

4 – TEXSENS EXPANDABLE PET BACKPACK CARRIER FOR MEDIUM CATS AND SMALL DOGS

This carrier allows your pet to see everything that's going on around them and is light and breathable, making it ideal for the summer. It comes with a safety belt, chest straps, and a pet cushion.

5 – NATUVELLE 6-IN-1 PET CARRIER BACKPACK

This product functions as a backpack, front pack, shoulder bag, handbag, upright and side-positioned carrier, and car seat crate. It is highly flexible and prepared to fit under most airline seats.

6 – STURDIBAG PRO 2.0

This carrier is an ideal choice for cats and small dogs. It offers excellent ventilation, security, and privacy features, and it's fully machine-washable! It is made of 600 Denier Oxford water-resistant fabric with reinforced zippers and locks. 





Find out what the team of Illusion specialise in and how they have acquired a sterling reputation in Marbella. Check out Sira Homes in Elviria and discover what makes this Iberdrola Inmobiliaria project special. Catch up on the latest local business news and events.

enterprise

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A NATURAL EDEN AT SIRA HOMES

Sira Homes in Elviria sets a new standard with an unwavering commitment to sustainability.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **PRIME INVEST**

Sira Homes is an advanced sustainable community by Iberdrola Inmobiliaria





Iberdrola is not only a leading Spanish conglomerate but also one of the foremost innovators of technology and renewable energy within and beyond the country. While it may not be known for property development in this part of the world, much less the creation of luxurious homes, Iberdrola Inmobiliaria has in fact been doing just that

for many years now, building up a great deal of know-how to complement its noted technological expertise. This merging of skills has produced a specialist capability that puts it in the ideal position to create the homes of the future – where optimal energy-efficiency and sustainability go hand in hand with comfort, style, and luxury living. ›





Private patios that offer style and intimacy



Panoramic terraces with private pools

SIRA HOMES - LUXURIOUS SUSTAINABILITY FOR A NEW AGE

Sira Homes is the culmination of this process, a selection of 21 stylish residences featuring contemporary architecture and modern living comforts within a wonderfully green natural setting. You may think that these two- and three-bedroom homes are situated within the natural beauty of one of Andalucía's rural beauty spots but in reality they are located at the heart of the Costa del Sol, within Elviria on the east side of Marbella.

Close to the glamour spots of the resort town, the beaches, and the golf courses of the region, as well as Málaga itself, Sira Homes is in fact a private oasis of greenery developed from a philosophy of sustainable development and natural living. Everything from the architecture and engineering to the orientation, the landscaping, and the technical solutions applied to this project are designed from this perspective. As a result, Sira Homes stands out as a residential community that offers typical Marbella

levels of style, comfort, and refinement attached to a new standard of construction and sustainable development that sets 21st century references for energy-efficiency and reduced environmental impact.

One day all properties in this region will be built like this, but for now Sira Homes is a shining example of how luxury homes can be created in greater harmony with their natural surroundings. Measuring 119-211m² with private gardens, parking, and also their own swimming pools,

the 21 residences set within seven elegant buildings offer stylish open-plan comfort with spacious indoor-outdoor living and dining areas, modern kitchens, and bathrooms featuring noble marble, stone, and wood, as well as panoramic rooftop solariums with splash pools, outdoor kitchen and dining/lounging space, and the most spectacular country and sea views of all. Residents wake up in the midst of native Andalusian greenery, enjoying a variety of views from the many perspectives that the properties offer. ›



Bedroom suite, terrace, and plunge pool



The landscaping has been designed not just to produce a welcoming, beautiful setting for a Marbella lifestyle, but also to create a micro ecosystem that complements the greater one surrounding it, and this continues in communal areas marked by cooling pine trees native to this region and stylish low-slung buildings featuring mid-century inspired design and natural materials such as stone. The latter provides a natural barrier against the heat, cooling homes in summer and keeping them cosy and warm in winter. It is typical of a design philosophy that applies both modern technology and natural elements to achieve its goals – a rediscovery of the bounty and solutions that nature bestows on us. ›



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Even the spa area, with its dry sauna, hammam steam bath, and professionally equipped gymnasium follows this principle, including even outdoor fitness areas where you can connect with nature while exercising within a cool, shaded area touched by the sea breezes that reach this point. The Wellness Hub therefore also applies the soothing and regenerative powers of nature, which also provides the overall community with its pervading sense of tranquillity and privacy. The latter is aided

by clever design that allows each property to have its own personal access and parking space within paces of the ground floor and first floor entrances, which can be accessed by a lift or stairs.

Contrary to many contemporary projects, there is also courtesy parking for visitors within the complex that finds itself ensconced within the cooling embrace of greenery. Inside, the residences allow for a great degree of individualised finishing, with the choice of a broad range

of materials, finishing, and detailing available to buyers. Sira Homes, by Iberdrola Inmobiliaria, is a luxury residential complex that offers the amenities, style, and comfort that have become typical of the Marbella area, yet it does so from the fresh new perspective of a company specialised in harnessing both modern technology and nature to produce an environmentally friendly, natural and nurturing living environment.

SIRA HOMES IS DEVELOPED BY IBERDROLA AND COMERCIALISED
BY PRIME INVEST. WWW.IBERDROLAINMOBILIARIA.COM
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REDEFINING SECLUSION: THE TARIFA BUNKER



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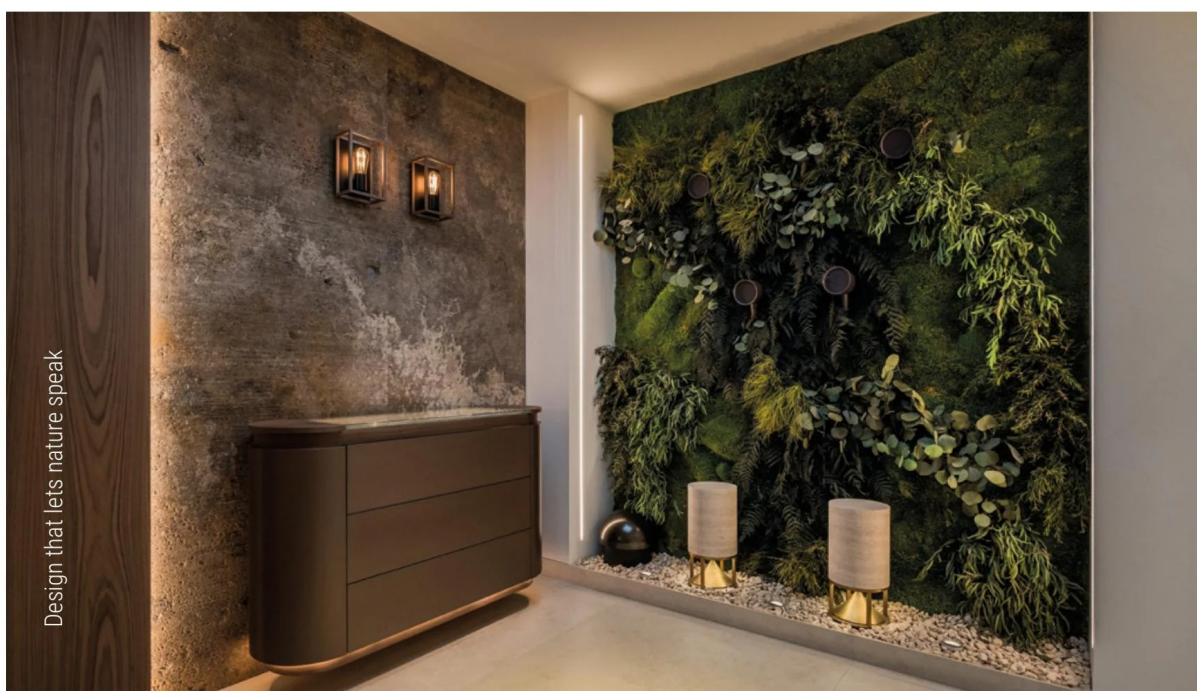
Explore a new level
of audio and visual
experience

ILLUSION

INTRODUCES THE EXPERIENCE CENTER

Illusion, a company synonymous with personalised lighting design, audiovisual solutions, and comprehensive smart home projects on the Costa del Sol introduces the Experience Center, a groundbreaking showcase in which to experience what sound and vision can really be like in the 21st century.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ILLUSION, CHARLY SIMON PHOTO**



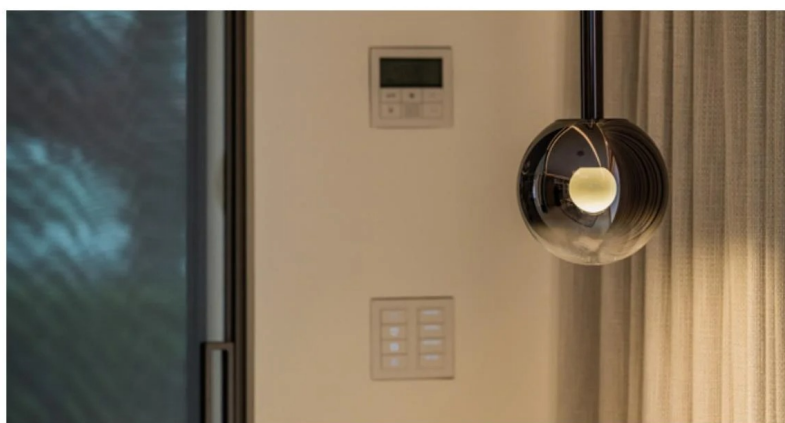
Design that lets nature speak

Light, sound, and technology have developed to a level that would have been hard to imagine just 20 years ago. Yet many of us still carry earlier perceptions and references, which means we're not fully aware of exactly where it can take you now in terms of sensory experiences and emotions. For this reason, Illusion has created the Experience Center, a first of a kind place on the Costa del Sol where you can imagine, feel, and discover for yourself what is possible when technology and design work together.

Much more than a

showroom, the Experience Center in San Pedro Alcántara is a purpose-built setting where Illusion's clients can experience the full sensory effect of how lighting, sound, and automation – when brought together with professional precision – can create an atmosphere and shape moods, from excited as you

watch an action movie or sport, to romantic, relaxed or inspirational. It is a place to explore ideas, resolve doubts, and the first step towards a home that feels truly personal, reflecting Illusion's mission to create intelligent environments that produce a sense of comfort, beauty, and serenity. ›



Where form, light, and emotion converge



In so doing, the Experience Center is an extension of the way Illusion works to offer personalised, detail-oriented design solutions focused upon well-being. Clients choose the setting they wish to create and are supported by technical advisors to make it happen, tailoring solutions

to each person's real needs – exploring together how lighting, natural light control, and audiovisual systems can transform their ideal space. “We collaborate with leading partners, integrating their solutions throughout the various areas of our Experience Center. This allows

us to jointly demonstrate not only what we offer, but also who we work with and how we make it happen – adding value to every experience and creating synergies that result in comprehensive, innovative, and seamlessly coordinated proposals,” says Victor Periañez, founder of Illusion.

The Illusion Experience Center in San Pedro





A NEXT-GENERATION SENSORY EXPERIENCE

Among the brands integrated into the center are Lutron for lighting and shading control, Occhio and Delta Light for architectural and ambient lighting, Bang & Olufsen, Sonance and Architettura Sonora for premium indoor and outdoor sound experiences, and Samsung for cutting-edge audiovisual technology. The aptly named Experience Center features a fully-equipped cinema room designed to enjoy an immersive sound and image experience, a large microLED screen used



to bring projects to life for residential and commercial spaces – delivering images that are incredibly bright yet offer superb contrast levels, deeper black levels, and saturated bright colours.

The Wall, developed by Samsung, is the ultimate in screen design, making it ideal for high-end home entertainment or presentation spaces. The Experience Center furthermore includes elegant meeting rooms where clients can envisage their ideal space, as well as a special lighting laboratory where lighting levels are tested and tailored. This space is complemented to display and finetune exterior lighting solutions that also explore how to recreate natural light effects with artificial lighting. “The stunning technical room reflects our passion for precision and meticulous detail,” says Victor. “It reveals the invisible, from Lutron’s integrated control systems to the AV distribution and automation components that orchestrate an entire space and create that immersive experience that simply sucks you into another dimension.” ›



DESIGN YOUR OWN WORLD AT HOME

While it is certainly a pleasurable sensory voyage in its own right, the Experience Center above all serves as a practical exposition of everything that is possible in audio, visual, and home automation technology and designs these days. As we're talking about sound, vision, and the art of bringing them together to create special ambiances and emotions, this real-life, sensory and three-dimensional environment is the ideal way of conveying the message and allowing clients to work with the technical advisors to design their own perfect blend of elements.

"This applies to home cinemas and the audiovisual systems that pervade the entire home or commercial

premises, but also to the lighting settings of the home or venue. Specifically, the many diverse functions of the Domotics systems, and the focus on creating intelligent ones that offer optimal comfort, convenience, time, and also money saving when it comes to heating, cooling, security, cooking, washing, and so many more functions. Overall, the systems are designed to reduce energy consumption and therefore waste, and to support daily life in a seemingly easy, seamless way."

Every solution created is bespoke to the client and the home or venue it is intended for. "Our role is to listen carefully, use the tools at our disposal at this unique facility, guide thoughtfully, and deliver solutions that feel like they're made especially for our clients – because they are." The Experience

Center therefore shows people what is possible, how they can personalise their environment, and how the Illusion team can design these systems and take them to the next level of precision. "Through our work we wish to create meaningful experiences that elevate daily life, so we do things differently and go further in order to achieve just that. Creating the Experience Center is a perfect example of that and we welcome people to step into our world and be amazed at what is possible."

ILLUSION EXPERIENCE CENTER

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business news

COMPILED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**



Versace Home Unveils Its Eight Haute Couture Villas in Marbella

Versace Home and real estate developer RGZ Developers officially presented Ocho de Oro, a collection of eight exclusive villas featuring interiors designed by Versace Home. The villas, priced at over €12 million, offer an unparalleled residential experience, featuring individual plots of 2,000 square metres and more than 20 rooms spread across two floors. From the landscaped entrance to the heated pools, every detail has been crafted to blend privacy, luxury, and design seamlessly. The interiors include a spa, an open-air cinema, and a private gym. RGZ Developers has opened a dedicated space in Puerto Banús, where clients can experience the uniqueness of the villas and the quality of the materials and decorative elements used in their construction.

WWW.RGZDEVELOPERS.COM



Fundación Sierra Blanca Raises Over €500,000 at Its Second Charity Gala

Fundación Sierra Blanca, a non-profit organisation founded by Pedro and Nidia Rodríguez and their children, recently held its second major charity gala at La Cábane, raising over €500,000. The funds will be distributed to those most in need through entities such as Fundación Lágrimas y Favores, Fundación Gasol, Fundación Cesare Scariolo, and others.

One of the most anticipated moments of the evening was the charity auction, which featured an extraordinary collection of art, luxury items, and unforgettable experiences. The event, attended by Antonio Banderas, Sergio Scariolo, and numerous philanthropists, offered an exclusive culinary experience, featuring a menu designed for the occasion by Dani García Catering, under the direction of chef Dani García.

WWW.FUNDACIONSIERRABLANCA.COM



Dolce & Gabbana transforms La C bane with its exclusive DG Resort 2025

Dolce & Gabbana has returned to the iconic La C bane beach club in Marbella with its new DG Resort – an immersive experience where sophisticated lifestyle and fun merge to bring the brand’s unmistakable aesthetic to life. Dolce & Gabbana has reimagined the spaces of La C bane with the Blu Mediterraneo theme. Vivid whites and blues, inspired by traditional southern Italian ceramics, decorate the pool area, the seafront terrace, and the restaurant’s lounge. The club is now home to a pop-up store selling garments and accessories. Mediterranean flavours and refined creativity come together at the restaurant led by chef Dani Garc a, featuring the exclusive Dolci Room, inspired by traditional Sicilian dessert trolleys.

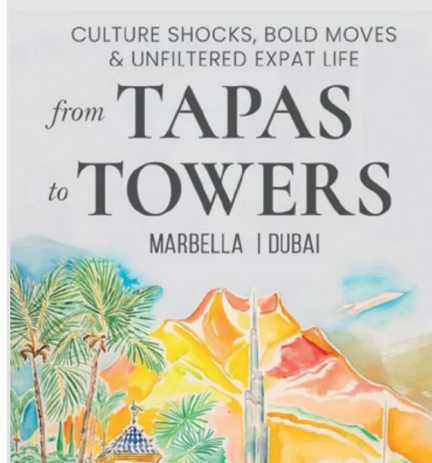
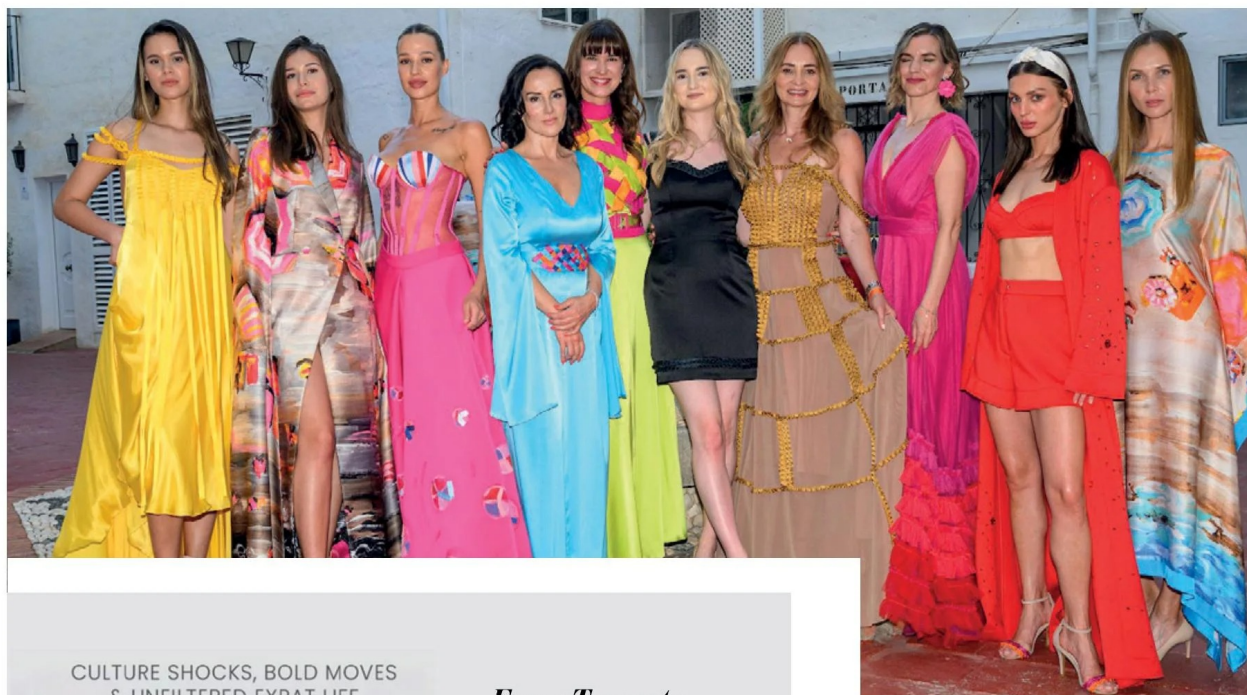
WWW.LACABANEMARBELLA.COM

The Opera Carmen Returns to the Anantara Villa Padierna

This summer, the amphitheatre of Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Benahav s Marbella Resort will once again be transformed into an extraordinary lyrical stage to host one of the most beloved operas of all time: *Carmen*, by Georges Bizet, which marks its 150th anniversary this year. Following the resounding success of last summer, the production returns with its ‘Boutique-Opera’ format, presented by Classical Passion Productions and under the artistic direction of musician and cultural manager Anabel S nchez. The shows will take place on July 3 and 24, August 14 and 28, and September 18.

FOR TICKETS, VISIT: CPANDMORE.JANTO.ES/ESPECTACULO/CARMEN/CARMENMARBELLA





From Tapas to Towers Book

From Tapas to Towers, by Dutch entrepreneur Jasmina Rucic, is a new book being praised by readers in Marbella and Dubai as a guide and a mirror. It is a refreshingly honest

take on the expat journey. Playful yet poignant, it explores themes of relocating, chasing the sun, and the realisation that speaking the language doesn't always equate to understanding the culture. Based on the author's transition from running a restaurant in Marbella to life in Dubai, the book has resonated particularly deeply with women who feel like their experiences have finally been voiced. Featuring a vibrant cover by Marbella-based artist Sebastian Marc Graham, the book is a colourful, authentic keepsake – perfect for a global, style-savvy audience.

| WWW.FROMTAPASTOTOWERS.COM

VIKTORIAVARGA Boutique Opens in Marbella

VIKTORIAVARGA, a colour-driven fashion label known for its expressive craftsmanship and wearable artistry, recently opened its newest boutique in Marbella. The brand was founded by Viktoria Varga, a Hungarian designer residing in Marbella, who personally designs and develops every collection. All items are made in Europe, and the brand has become truly international, now enjoying a growing following among women drawn to its bold use of colour, unique textures, and distinctive storytelling vibe. The store is located at C/ Muelle Ribera 1 in Puerto Banús.

WWW.VIKTORIAVARGA.EU

Bromley Estates Unveils Las Mesas Infinity Homes

Bromley Estates and Avantespacia are pleased to announce the launch of Las Mesas Infinity Homes, an exclusive new residential development comprising luxury apartments with panoramic Mediterranean views, just minutes from Estepona's marina and town centre. Set in an elevated position that captures breathtaking vistas across the sea to Gibraltar and the African coastline, the stunning boutique complex features 56 contemporary apartments arranged across three low-rise buildings. This private, gated community combines modern design, high-spec finishes, and resort-style amenities, delivering refinement and everyday functionality. Each apartment has been thoughtfully designed with spacious open-plan interiors, floor-to-ceiling windows, expansive terraces, and high-end fixtures throughout.

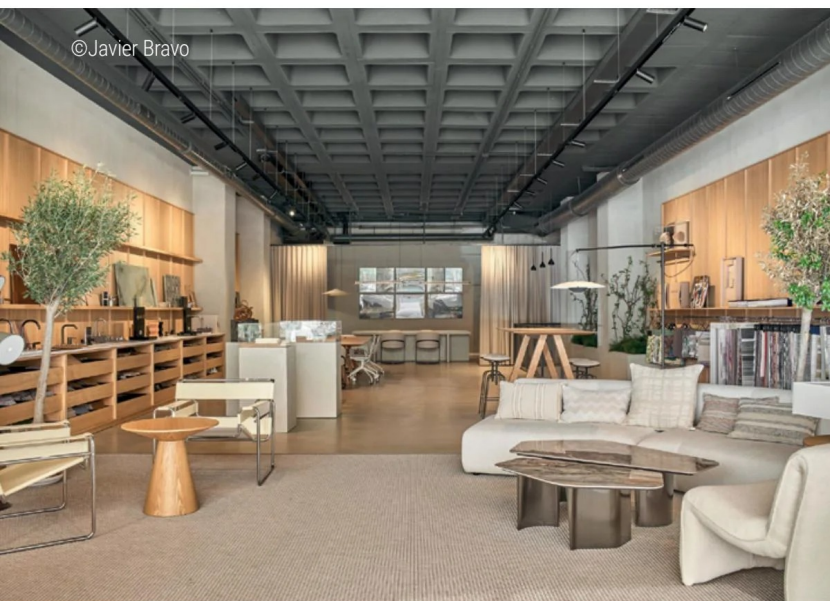
| WWW.BROMLEYESTATESMARBELLA.COM



Market Málaga de Moda Takes Place at McArthurGlen Málaga

Market Málaga de Moda, a yearly pop-up event from the Málaga Provincial Council's fashion brand, recently took place at McArthurGlen Málaga. Javier Mendizábal, Centre Manager of McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga, officially launched the event alongside Esperanza González, Deputy for Productive Economic Development at the Málaga Provincial Council. Some 11 designers affiliated with the brand showcased their products. Participating brands included Bumpers Brand, Mi Pequeña Nubecita, Selva de Mar, Pelusita y Doña Amparo, Red Silk by Redhelga, Meibool, Para Ti Complemento, Lucy Clip, Julieth Joyas, Berillús, and Banbroken.

| WWW.MCARTHURGLEN.COM



L35 Presents Exhibition at Its Sotogrande Office

Global architecture, urban planning, and design firm L35 Architects has opened its new office at the Sotogrande Marina, located at Calle Ribera del Marlin, unit 36. This innovative space not only houses the firm's operations on the Costa del Sol but also serves as a curated exhibition venue for showcasing contemporary art trends. The Seville-based gallery DiGallery has curated 'Sobre lo Bello' ('About Beauty'), a project bringing together 16 leading and emerging artists with strong international reputations. The exhibition, which can be viewed at L35 Architects' studio from July 4 to 28, features diverse media and techniques, integrated within the L35 space to create a dialogue between construction materials, interior design, and art.

WWW.L35.COM

Endobronchial Ultrasound Improves Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Staging at Quirónsalud Málaga

Quirónsalud Málaga Hospital has introduced a minimally invasive respiratory endoscopic technique, called endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS), into its interventional pulmonology portfolio for conditions such as lung cancer, sarcoidosis, and lymphoma. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide, and its prognosis largely depends on early diagnosis and accurate staging. EBUS enhances the detection and staging of this cancer by allowing real-time ultrasound visualisation and access to lymph nodes and lesions around the trachea and bronchi. This enables sample collection without the need for surgery, significantly reducing patient risk and speeding up the diagnostic process.

| WWW QUIRON SALUD.ES





Grupo GS Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary with the Launch of Five New Luxury Developments

Grupo GS, a benchmark developer in the luxury housing segment, celebrates its 25th anniversary by consolidating its national expansion with the launch of five new developments in the first months of the year. This momentum reinforces its presence in prime locations such as El Limonar (Málaga), Marbella (Málaga), Barrio de Salamanca (Madrid), Sanxenxo (Pontevedra), and Canido (Vigo, Pontevedra). Grupo GS closed the 2024 financial year with a turnover of €252 million. In the first four months of 2025, the launch of five new developments (GS La Cornisa, GS Silgar, GS Limonar Hills, GS Carbonero y Sol, and GS Canido) enabled the company to generate €137 million, placing it on track to reach its annual target of €300 million. Its new projects are expected to generate around 4,400 direct and indirect jobs, thus reinforcing GS' commitment to sustainable development and job creation.

| WWW.GRUPOGS.ES



The 14th Global Gift Gala Takes Place this Month at the Hotel Don Pepe Gran Meliá

The 14th edition of The Global Gift Gala, presented by Nota Blu New Brasserie and Mamzel at Finca Besaya, will be taking place at the Hotel Don Pepe Gran Meliá on July 20. María Bravo will serve as the host of the event, while actor Eva Longoria and CEO of Casanis Group, Zazou Belounis, will be the guests of honour. Confirmed celebrity guests include *Prison Break* actor Amaury Nolasco, fashion designer Vicky Martín Berrocal, and basketball legend and NBA commentator Sean Elliott. A memorable dinner will be prepared by the talented chef Víctor Carracedo. Proceeds will go to aid Casa Ángeles, a day centre for children with special needs.

| WWW.GLOBALGIFTGALA.COM





Selvatic Málaga Fest Is a Hit

The second edition of Selvatic Málaga Fest kicked off at Málaga Fórum with a spectacular opening night. The evening was dedicated to the unforgettable hits of an entire generation, with the 'Molan los 90' event transporting the audience back to one of the most iconic decades in music. Tracks like *Rhythm is a Dancer* by Snap!, *What is Love* by Haddaway, and *Played-A-Live (The Bongo Song)* by Safri Duo had the crowd dancing all night. The staging also paid tribute to the 1990s aesthetic, featuring platform shoes, neon lights, and the iconic style of Locomía, whose energetic Latin dance-pop and flamboyant outfits captivated audiences. The night concluded with a high-energy set by DJ Xavi in Session, providing the perfect finale to a night filled with rhythm and nostalgia.

| WWW.SELVATICFEST.ES

Agrojardín Grows a Virtual Garden in Archidona

Agrojardín Landscaping, a company with over 40 years' experience in creating green spaces, is currently installing a pioneering vertical garden on the façade of the Archidona Municipal Library. The project, developed in collaboration with the specialist company Terapia Urbana, is turning the building into a benchmark for sustainability and energy efficiency in the public sector. Covering 350 square meters and incorporating nearly 4,000 plants from 14 native species, this green infrastructure is designed to maximise its positive environmental impact.

| WWW.AGROJARDIN.COM



Craftsmanship, Culture, and Sustainable Fashion in Andalusia Shines at the Marbella Fashion Show

The panel 'Craftsmanship, Culture, and Sustainable Fashion in Andalusia', part of the Marbella Fashion Show, took place recently at the Hotel Occidental Puerto Banús. The event was attended by Carlos García Giménez (Territorial Delegate of Tourism, Culture, and Sport of the Junta de Andalucía), as well as Ana Cuevas (the founder of a sustainable fashion brand), and Rosalía Zahíno (a renowned Andalusian designer). The event invited attendees to reflect on the value of traditional crafts in the current context of fashion, culture, and innovation. The eighth edition of the Marbella Fashion Show will take place on July 10 and 11 on Avda. de Lola Flores in Marbella.

| WWW.NUEVAMODA.COM



eseOese Opens in Málaga

eseOese, a brand renowned for its knitwear and effortlessly chic, Mediterranean-inspired fashions, has recently opened its first store in Málaga. Located in the heart of the historic centre, the establishment spans over 200 square metres. Every texture, colour, and detail has a purpose.

The design honours the original architecture of the building, incorporating noble materials, natural elements, and a serene, light-filled atmosphere. Since its founding in Barcelona in 1988, eseOese has built a distinctive, timeless style. The brand stands out for its craftsmanship in knitted fabrics, organic cotton, and versatile silhouettes that accompany everyday life with ease and care.

WWW.ESEOESE.COM

Dr. Virginia Grando is HM Hospitales' New Southern Regional Director

HM Hospitales has officially appointed Dr Virginia Grando as Southern Regional Director. Dr. Grando, a specialist in Intensive Care trained in Argentina, joined HM Hospitales in 2008 as an intensivist at HM Montepíncipe University Hospital. Her career has remained closely tied to critical care, where she is known for her clinical rigour, professional independence, and dedication. HM Hospitales also recently launched its educational initiative, The Minutes of Life, a project aimed at equipping families with life-saving knowledge for emergencies. The training took place at Almudena Grandes School, where parents of nursery and primary pupils received free guidance on how to preserve their children's safety and well-being.

| WWW.HMHOSPITALES.COM





Beauchamp Estates Opens New Office in Marbella

Beauchamp Estates, a real estate firm specialising in ultra-luxury properties, has officially opened its new office in Marbella, at C.C. El Capricho. This expansion marks a strategic milestone in the firm's international growth, following its presence in London, the French Riviera, Monaco, New York, Mykonos, and Tel Aviv. Launched in 1979 by Founding Director Gary Hersham, Beauchamp Estates has established itself as a renowned brokerage for buyers, vendors, and investors of exceptional luxury properties. The company offers exceptional standards of service tailored to individual clients based on discretion, excellence, and access to assets that rarely reach the open market. The Marbella office will be led by Erik Holmgren, Head of Beauchamp Estates Marbella, who will be working alongside Gary Hersham.

| WWW.BEAUCHAMP.COM



Historic Double for Sotogrande International School

Students from Sotogrande International School (SIS) recently participated in the International Schools Track & Field Athletics Championship, hosted by the P.E. department of Laude San Pedro International College and featuring a total of 10 international schools. The SIS team more than doubled its winning margin from 2024 and achieved a historic double victory in cross-country and athletics championships.

| WWW.SIS.AC



EJE&CON Presents First Study on Executive Talent Opportunities in Andalucía

The Spanish Association of Executives and Board Members (EJE&CON) has presented the first Study on Executive Talent Opportunities in Andalucía. This in-depth analysis offers the first comprehensive overview of the executive ecosystem in Andalusia, marking the 10th anniversary of the association. The study has shown that there are three key motivations for interest in Andalucía: family and regional roots, quality of life, and regional impact and purpose. Structural barriers, meanwhile, include a lack of suitable executive opportunities (especially for women), a wage gap compared to other regions, and organisations' cultural resistance to external talent. The report also proposes a 10-point action plan, which includes tax and economic incentives, competitive compensation packages, and improved business infrastructure.

| WWW.EJECON.ORG



Agrosevilla Wins Prestigious Award

Agrosevilla, a leading company in the production, processing, and marketing of table olives, has been awarded the IGE Distinction in Good Governance – Bronze Category, granted by the Institute for Corporate Governance (IGE). This distinction underscores the company's commitment to strong, ethical, and transparent governance. It is granted following a technical assessment based on the IGE's maturity model, which evaluates governance and sustainability systems, balance of power, monitoring and control, and accountability. Congratulations are due to Agrosevilla for its excellent work and strong commitment to its members.

| WWW.AGROSEVILLA.COM



Vithas Xanit Launches New Clean Water Collection System

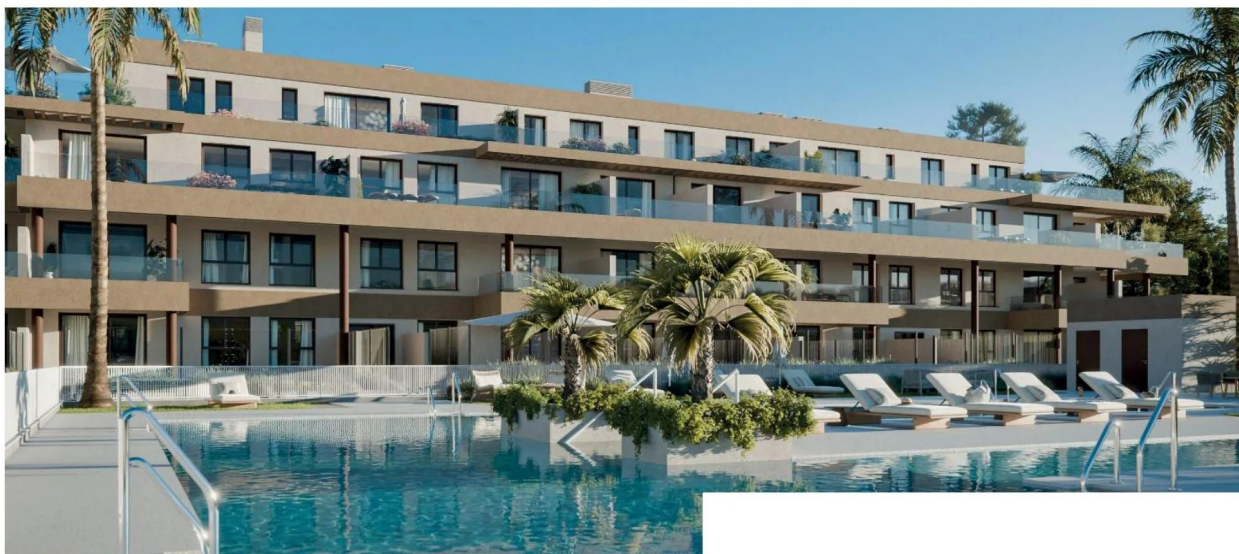
The Vithas Xanit International Hospital has launched an innovative clean water collection system, authorised by the Andalusian Regional Government, to reuse water from processes linked to hospital activity for irrigation purposes. This is part of Project Aman, an initiative by Vithas originally developed at Vithas Las Palmas Hospital. Once implemented across all hospitals in the Group, the project will enable annual savings of 70,000 m³ of water. The recycled water, originating from the sterilisation of medical equipment and fully compliant with phytosanitary safety standards, will be used to irrigate the hospital's green areas.

| WWW.VITHAS.ES

Vithas Champions the Fight Against Skin Cancer and Antimicrobial Resistance

Vithas Hospital has published a list of 10 tips to help prevent skin cancer. Top tips include avoiding the sun between 10am and 4pm, using an SPF 50+ sunscreen (UVA and UVB protection), reapplying it every two hours, wearing appropriate clothing, seeking shade, and being cautious with reflective surfaces. Additional tips include avoiding tanning beds, hydrating and caring for your skin, performing regular self-examinations of your skin, consulting a dermatologist at least once a year, and protecting children and older people. Vithas also recently celebrated the second Antimicrobial Use Optimisation conference, alongside Pfizer, revealing its commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance – an issue that causes 1.2 million deaths annually worldwide.

| WWW.VITHAS.ES



Lindt & Sprüngli Opens Its First Boutique in Marbella

Swiss premium chocolate company Lindt & Sprüngli continues its expansion with the opening of its 30th boutique in the Iberian Peninsula. The new boutique is located at La Cañada Shopping Centre. It spans 80 square metres, offering ample space to delight even the most discerning chocolate lovers. This marks Lindt & Sprüngli's second boutique in Málaga and the region of Andalucía. The boutique offers the unparalleled quality and variety of Lindt's full product range. A highlight is the Lindt Pick & Mix area, featuring over 50 different trays of assorted chocolates.

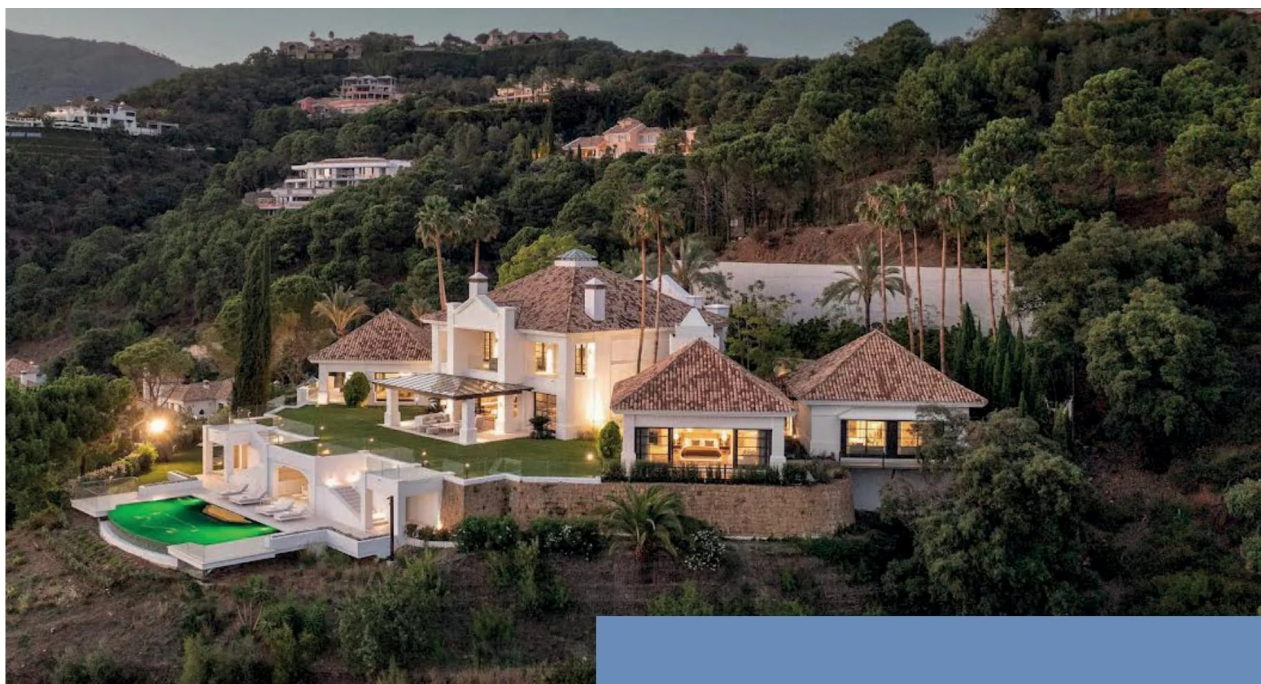
WWW.LINDT.ES

Grupo Insur and Grupo Inmoglaciár Strengthen Their Presence on Mijas Costa with Balance Nova

Real estate promoters Grupo Insur and Grupo Inmoglaciár have consolidated their strategic alliance with the launch of Balance Nova, a new residential development located in Mijas Costa. This project, which replicates the successful design of the Balance homes previously launched in the area, represents a total investment of €43 million and is expected to generate approximately 430 jobs.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2026. Balance Nova is designed as an oasis of well-being and relaxation, offering a collection of 142 two- and three-bedroom apartments tailored for maximum comfort and relaxation. The development will feature exclusive communal areas, including a swimming pool, chill-out space, gym, spa area, social club, and co-working space.

WWW.GRUPOINSUR.COM



Marbella Climbs Positions in Ultra-Luxury Tourism

Marbella Mountain Resorts, a leading luxury villa rental firm, has noted that Marbella is solidly positioning itself in the international ultra-luxury tourism market, attracting a global clientele with high purchasing power. With a portfolio of around 30 properties located in areas such as Sierra Blanca, Benahavís, Marbella Club, and La Zagaleta, the group aspires to offer a kind of 'European Beverly Hills' in these areas. CEO Luis Ponce states, "Marbella has everything to become the world's leading luxury destination: a great climate, privacy, connectivity, cultural and gastronomic offerings, but, above all, space, versatility, and quality of life." He adds that clients who traditionally chose destinations such as Ibiza, the French Riviera, or the Greek islands are now seeing Marbella as the ultimate holiday choice.

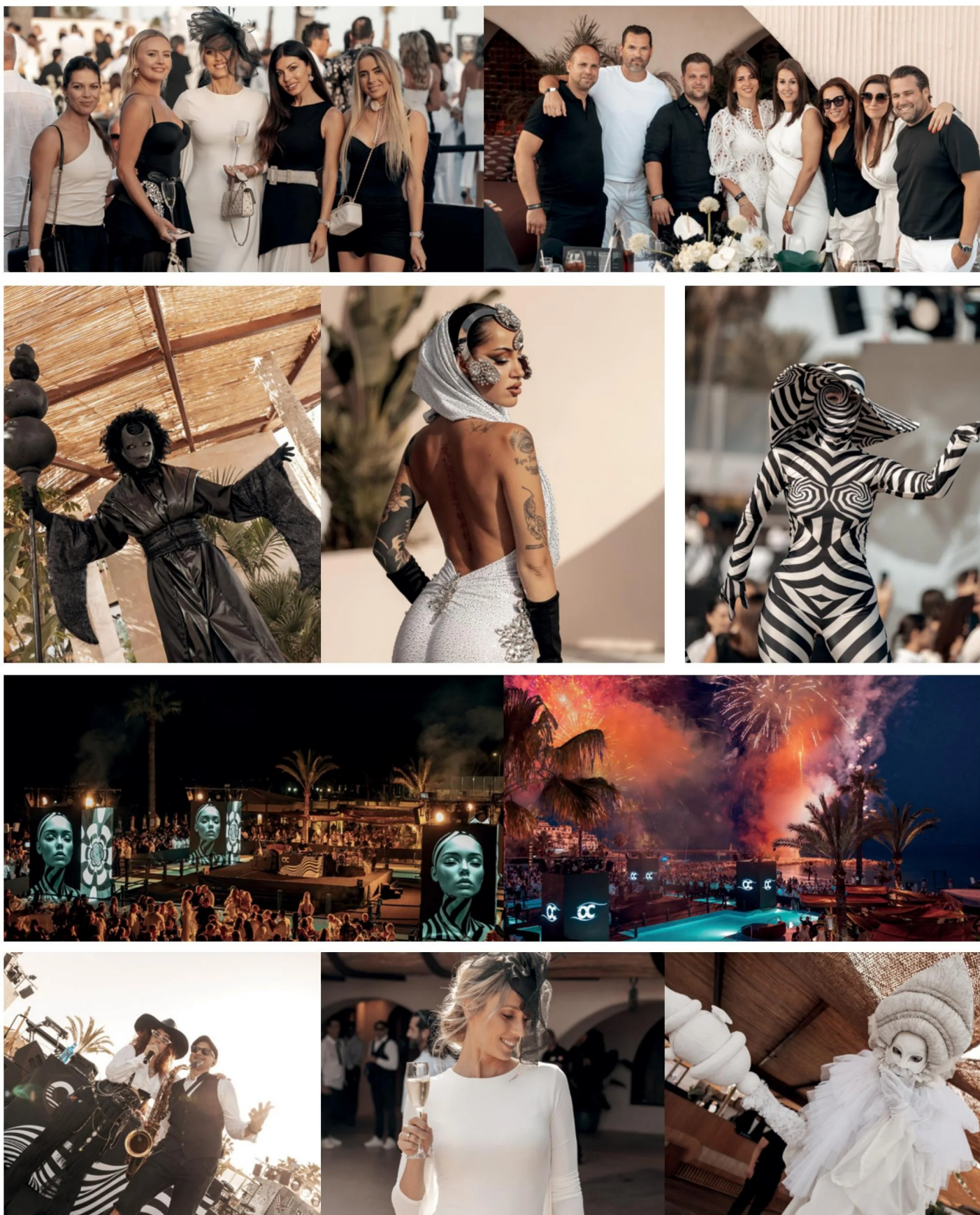
| WWW.MARBELLAMOUNTAINRESORTS.COM

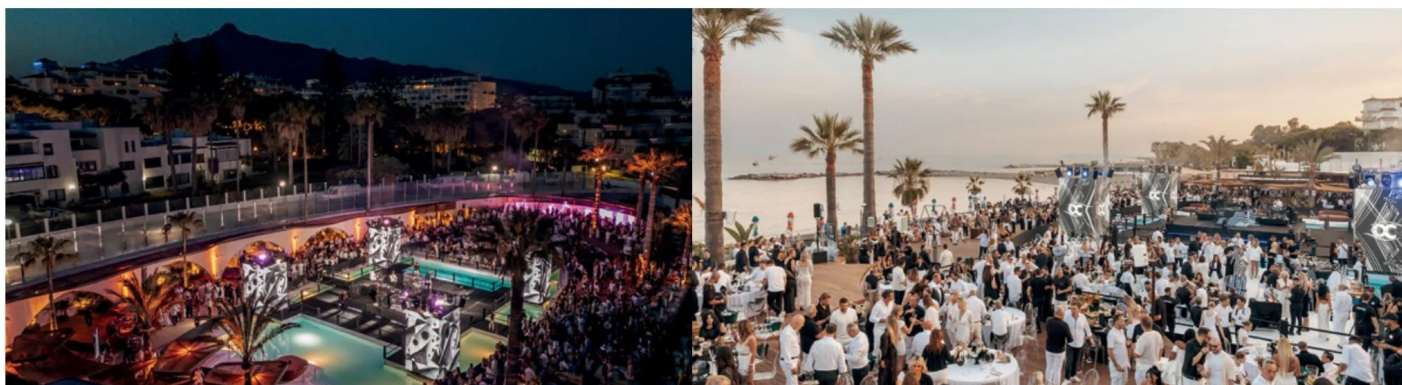
Village Verde, Sotogrande Wins Design of the Year at the PORCELANOSA 2025 Awards

Village Verde, an exclusive residential development by Sotogrande SA, backed by Orion Capital Managers, won the 'Design of the Year' prize at the PORCELANOSA Awards 2025. These prestigious awards recognise excellence in architecture and interior design using materials from PORCELANOSA. Situated on six hectares of green space next to La Reserva Club, Village Verde features 124 homes, including apartments, penthouses, and sky villas. The project, designed by L35 Architects, was envisioned with a focus on contemporary architecture, sustainability, and functionality. It seamlessly integrates into the Andalusian landscape while offering residents shared spaces and access to a wide range of leisure and sports activities.

| WWW.VILLAGEVERDESOTOGRADE.COM







OCEAN CLUB **OPENING PARTY**

Emblematic Marbella frontline beach venue Ocean Club, which has just been extensively renovated, officially launched its 18th season with a glamorous Opening Party. Marbella's glitterati turned out in force to enjoy an evening with Champagne, cocktails and live music from Raffa Guido and Marco Lys, among others. Its customary fireworks display lit up the night sky, being visible from kilometres away.

WWW.OCEANCLUB.ES

PHOTOGRAPHY **PEDRO JAÉN**





DON RUDOLFO RELAUNCH

Alberto Peláez, the Managing Director of the Hotel El Pilar which is situated in Estepona's iconic Plaza de Flores, welcomed guests to the relaunch of the Don Rudolfo bodega. Featuring vaulted ceilings and decorative murals, Don Rudolfo offers an authentic experience with an impressive selection of wines that pair perfectly with Iberian products and meats of the highest quality.

WWW.DONRUDOLFO.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**



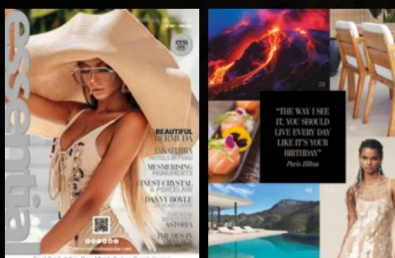
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EYSIUM MARBELLA AND PETROSECUR

The developer of Elysium GL Suites, Elysium Marbella together with PETROSECUR SECURITY & DEFENSE hosted an exclusive event highlighting advanced security solutions for ultimate peace of mind. PETROSECUR unveiled their cutting-edge smart home security systems, including state-of-the-art panic rooms and private bunkers, showcasing their dedication to innovation and paramount protection.

WWW.ELYSIUMMARBELLA.COM

WWW.PETROSECUR.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY **JOHNNY GATES**



— DISCOVER —
PAN-ASIAN CUISINE

NOYANE

BY CHEF RICHARD SANDOVAL

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 noyanemarbella.com

C/Las Malvas, 50, Nueva Andalucía, Marbella

 [noyanemarbella](https://www.instagram.com/noyanemarbella)



Luxury Hyperbaric Medicine: A Unique Experience at Estepona Hyperbaric Medical Clinic

In 2025, the Estepona Hyperbaric Medical Clinic (HMCE) marks its 11th year of helping thousands of patients since its establishment in 2014 on the Costa del Sol. Known as a leader in health across Europe, the clinic attracts patients from Andalusia, Spain, and around the world.

HMCE is recognised for its high-quality, exclusive service, combining advanced technology with luxury. Patients are first evaluated by a team of experts in Hyperbaric Medicine before undergoing Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). This therapy involves administering 100% pure oxygen at higher-than-atmospheric pressures within a hyperbaric chamber. It has

proven effective for various conditions, offering significant health benefits.

HBOT reduces pain and inflammation, boosts the immune system, improves sleep quality, accelerates wound healing, aids bone fracture recovery, and enhances circulation. It's particularly beneficial for athletes, aiding recovery and reducing fatigue from training or injuries. The therapy also helps in cases like sudden deafness, vision loss, diabetic foot, cerebral palsy, strokes, fibromyalgia, and other medical conditions such as CO poisoning and varicose ulcers. Scientific studies support HBOT's role in slowing aging and preventing cell death.



Avda. España 242, Estepona.

T: (+34) 952 806 796.

www.centrohiperbarico.com



For a memorable day out, reserve a sun bed at the new-look Ocean Club and enjoy a wonderful lunch at Amaï. Meet Mexican chef Santiago Lastra whose restaurant KOL in London holds a Michelin Star. Savour fine blush rosé wines this summer, courtesy of INVINIC.

gourmet

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DON'T MISS THE SUMMER AT OCEAN CLUB

Only a few minutes' walk from Puerto Banús, Ocean Club has become a real institution on the Coast. Now in its 18th year, Marbella's most definitive beach resort is a classic venue, centred around a large oval-shaped saltwater pool, which is now renowned as one of Europe's trendiest spots for chilling out, partying, and enjoying the best that the summer has to offer.

WORDS **JAMES SINCLAIR** PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**

EXPERIENCE THE NEW OCEAN CLUB

Ocean Club extends over 9.000 m² and, following an extensive refurbishment, this season's visitors will find that major changes have taken place, upping the comfort level substantially with an all-new shaded lounging area featuring a large range of plush Kettal sofas, cosy new seats and wooden tables, and beautiful new wooden decking throughout the entire premises. The bar area now occupies a lengthy expanse under a visually arresting bamboo awning; the bathrooms have been completely renovated; even the entrance has been reformed, with giant curved pillars spaced to permit open views and enhanced lighting.

There can be few more fulfilling things to do in Marbella than to spend an afternoon with friends in this haven of elegance and sophistication. Rent one of their many giant circular sunbeds around the pool and enjoy chill out music with cocktails and Champagne, or savour a leisurely lunch at signature restaurant Amaï. You will enjoy luxuriating in a rarefied atmosphere, where the music washes over you and you can feel the bass in your stomach. This is a hangout for beautiful people who are very much in evidence. There are also regular guest DJ sessions and special events. ›





INDULGE YOURSELF AT AMAÏ

When hunger pangs hit, head over to international restaurant Amaï to satisfy them in style. The menu is comprehensive, with a full range of options to cater to all tastes, as well as several platters designed for sharing. Diners can choose from a large range of Sushi options, Salads, Pizzas, and Pasta dishes. Starters include many enticing choices like Gazpacho OC Style, Tempura Prawns, Fresh Tuna Spring Rolls, Seafood Ceviche, and Pil 'King' Pil. The portions are generous and the quality of the preparations such that you will be eagerly looking forward to future visits to try other temptations. ›






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Main courses feature many great selections like Fried Calamari, Poke Bowls with Salmon, Tuna, or Wagyu Pastrami, Wagyu Steak Tartare, Panang Curry with Chicken or Prawns, Rib Eye or Beef Fillet, Coconut Crusted Cod, and Smash Wagyu

Burger, and some of these are accompanied by French Fries prepared the Belgian way, which are crisp on the outside and soft in the middle.

Plates to share are also numerous, such as Quesadillas, Nachos with Free Range Chicken or Angus

Beef, Hot Chicken Tandoori, Kobe Beef Fajita, and Mezze. Desserts, which can also be shared, include sweet seductions like Banoffee Mess, Dame Blanche, Chocolate Fondant, Crêpes, Sorbets, and different Ice Creams. ›





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Ocean Club is a place with a superlative drinks offering, so whether you are stretched on a sun lounger, ensconced on a sofa, or enjoying a sumptuous lunch, you can choose from Champagne, signature cocktails, fine wines, beers, soft drinks, and water.

We recommend you book your sun bed and spend a memorable day by the pool with a lavish lunch at Amaï.

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www.kesotogrande.com



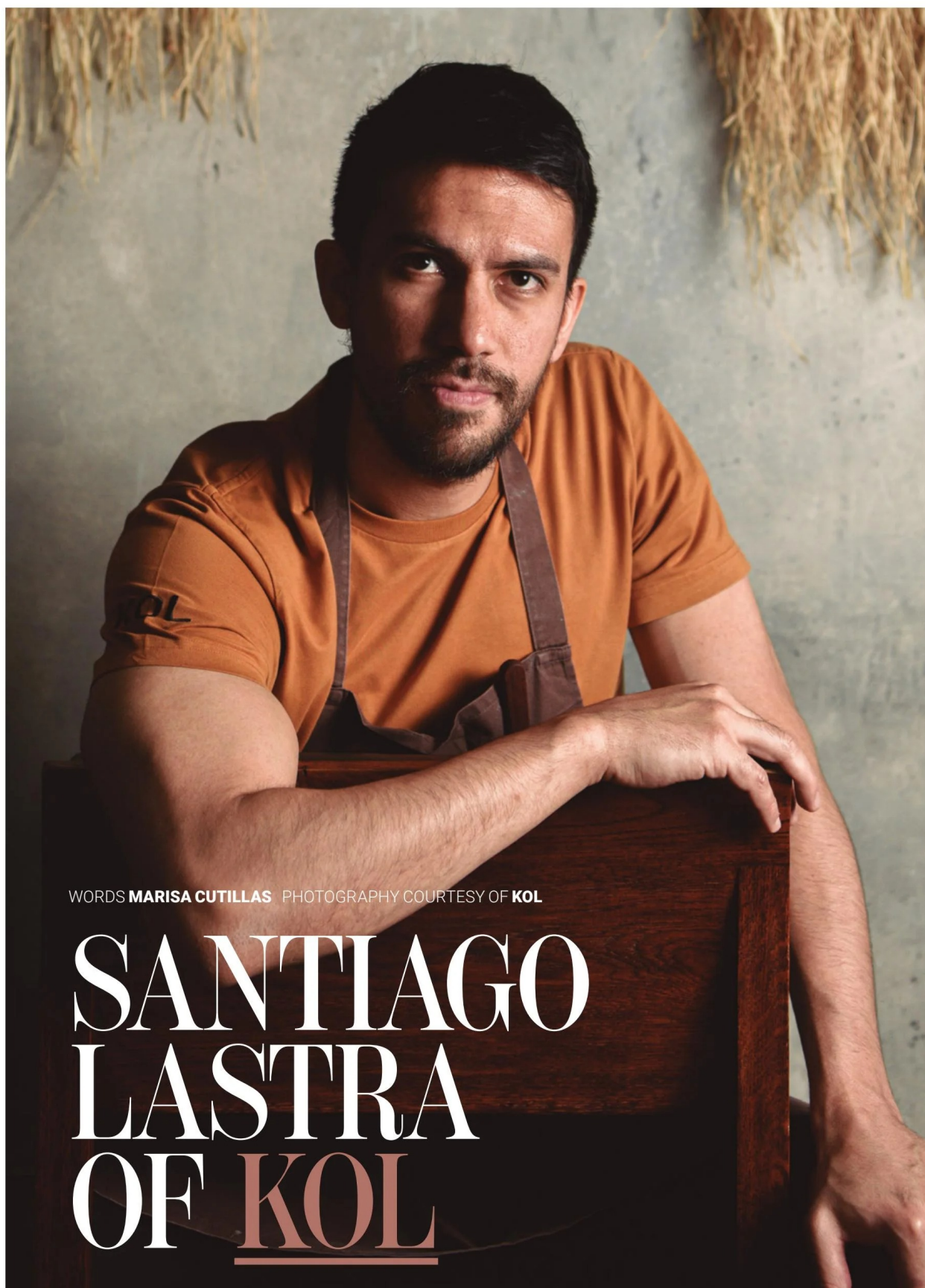
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RESTAURANTE

KE SOTOGRANDE

Puerto deportivo Sotogrande





WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **KOL**

SANTIAGO LASTRA OF KOL

A PASSION FOR SCIENCE, CULTURE, AND INNOVATION

Cooking is as much a science as it is an art. When diners book a table at an upscale restaurant in a lively European city, they may focus on the flavour of the dishes, the ambiance, and the quality of the service. However, sometimes, there is a keen knowledge of science, history, and art behind every bite – and this depth of knowledge is evident in the cuisine of talented chef Santiago Lastra. At his Michelin-starred restaurant, KOL, in London, he celebrates the vibrancy and rich heritage of Mexican culture through a nostalgic yet contemporary lens, while using meticulously sourced British ingredients.

Born in Mexico City, the

chef was raised just south of the City of Palaces in Cuernavaca, known locally as The City of Eternal Spring. The young Santiago dreamed of becoming a mathematician rather than a chef, competing in maths Olympic events and developing a keen interest in research and problem-solving. This sense of curiosity inspired his first attempt at cooking. Noticing a recipe for crab dip on the back of a packet of Ritz Crackers, he

purchased the ingredients and prepared it for his family. At the age of 15, he began working part-time in a local Italian restaurant. After graduating from high school at 18, he was offered an internship at the one-Michelin-starred Europa Restaurante in Pamplona and moved to Spain, where he worked for two years. He returned to Mexico to study at the Instituto Arte Culinario Coronado before leaving again for Spain. ›





The chef honed his craft for 15 months under the guidance of Andoni Luis Aduriz at Mugaritz, while simultaneously completing a Master's Degree in Culinary Innovation at the Basque Culinary Centre. This experience compounded his commitment to research. "I loved how they think about recipes, the research, the development, the creative element," he says. The chef's next plan was to return home to Mexico to open a research laboratory after gaining professional kitchen experience for a few years.

From Mugaritz, Santiago moved to Copenhagen. Unlike many chefs, he did not head to Noma, although René Redzepi would ultimately play a significant part in his career. Instead, he began a development course at the prestigious Nordic Food Lab in the University of Copenhagen, researching how to make tortillas using Nordic grains. The project proved to be a great inspiration, and he began a series of pop-up events worldwide – in 27 countries – cooking dishes inspired by Mexican recipes but prepared with local ingredients. This took him to places as far-flung as France, Italy, Portugal, Turkey, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Sweden, and Russia. ›



EAT. FEEL. REPEAT.
CASINOMARBELLA.COM/RESTAURANT

While in Russia in 2016, the chef received a message that would change the course of his career. His world tour had introduced him to many global chefs, food writers, and journalists. René Redzepi wished to take Noma to Mexico for a seven-week pop-up in Tulum in the country's southwest, and he was looking for a project manager. Santiago's name was recommended, so Noma contacted the chef. After meeting René, he was offered the job on the spot and had just nine days to

organise the first research trip.

In the months leading up to the opening of Noma Mexico in 2017, Santiago learned more about his homeland's people, cuisine, and ingredients than ever before. Unlike Europe, where nationality and culture shaped many of the same ingredients, Mexico was vast and varied, and local ingredients changed dramatically throughout its regions. Inspired by the social impact a restaurant like Noma could make – and now armed with greater pride in the food and culture of his homeland – he decided that his future lay in a restaurant rather than a research laboratory.

Driven by a desire to build a community comprising a restaurant team, local producers and suppliers, and guests, he sought the perfect location and settled on London, owing to its cosmopolitan, well-travelled population and its familiarity with spice. London is recognised as one of the world's greatest culinary locations, and the

British are Mexico's second-largest tourist group after the Americans. This city is also closely connected to Europe, and has an English-speaking media that can help him change the perception of Mexican food. KOL opened its doors in 2020, merging Mexican culinary culture with the native produce of Britain.

Santiago has created strong, bold menus that celebrate his homeland's rich cultural tastes, aromas, and textures with meticulously sourced seasonal British produce. KOL is also home to a stand-alone bar, KOL Mezcaleria, which specialises in mezcal and other premium Mexican spirits. The Mezcaleria offers an accompanying food menu in the form of Antojitos – little cravings such as quesadillas and empanadas. In a career marked with remarkable achievements of culinary firsts, Santiago's journey has only just begun. KOL was ranked 17th in The World's 50 Best Restaurants list in 2024.

| WWW.KOLRESTAURANT.COM





CIELO BY FLORENTINE

Emblematic Italian restaurant Florentine, situated in the centre of the Golden Mile, has opened their much-anticipated new roof terrace venue Cielo, which is the first and only rooftop dining site on Marbella's famous thoroughfare.

Cielo is the elevated version of the Italian romance that defines the soul of Florentine, where Mediterranean flavours, stunning design, and vibrant energy come together under the open sky. The heart of the Cielo experience is a circular cocktail bar with 360-degree views, surrounded by custom-designed furniture, twinkling lights, and unparalleled vistas of La Concha Mountain.

Florentine, the iconic restaurant that houses Cielo, is located in the Forum shopping centre, strategically located between the Marbella Club Hotel and the Puente Romano Beach Resort. This stretch of the Golden Mile is currently one of Europe's most coveted destinations, known for its luxury, lifestyle, and international reach. Cielo is not just an extension of Florentine; it is a very enticing standalone concept. While Florentine evokes the timeless elegance of 1970s Italy through its refined trattoria experience, Cielo marks

a change of pace and atmosphere: a space designed for movement, celebration, and the energy of the sunset.

Cielo's menu celebrates this connection and invites you to savour the aromas, flavours, and memories that only come alive when shared in good company. So reserve your table for an evening of magic, with a new menu and new attitude that will guarantee your satisfaction.

CIELO BY FLORENTINE, BV. PRINCIPE
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MARBELLA/CIELO](http://WWW.FLORENTINERESTAURANTS.COM/MARBELLA/CIELO)

Cielo
BY FLORENTINE



COMPILED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**

CIELO BY FLORENTINE OPENS AT THE CENTRO COMERCIAL FORUM

Cielo is a new, elevated version of the Italian romance that defines the soul of Florentine restaurant, located at the Centro Comercial Forum. As the first rooftop venue in this coveted area of Marbella,

Cielo offers a fresh way to experience local gastronomy, where Mediterranean flavours, striking design, and vibrant energy come together under the open sky. The heart of the Cielo experience is a circular cocktail bar with 360° views, surrounded by bespoke furniture, sparkling lights, and sweeping vistas of La Concha mountain.

WWW.FLORENTINERESTAURANTS.COM



CUCHILLO MARBELLA: BISTRONOMIC TAPAS ON THE CABOPINO MARINA

CUCHILLO has become a must-visit for lovers of bistronomic cuisine. At the helm is Belgian chef Sébastien Serroyen, praised by the restaurant guide Gault&Millau in Belgium for his bold, creative flair. His menu blends refined tapas, seasonal local ingredients, and global influences. Highlights include a six-course tasting menu (€39), a weekly lunch special (€24.50), and a wine + tapa pairing for just €6. Each dish tells a story of the connection between Andalucía and Belgium. With its elegant setting overlooking the Cabopino marina, CUCHILLO offers a warm, relaxed, and flavourful dining experience.

| WWW.CUCHILLO-MARBELLA.ES

PUENTE ROMANO HOSTS THE FIRST CULINARY ICONS EVENT

Puente Romano Marbella experienced an unforgettable day with the celebration of the first edition of the Culinary Icons. The event brought together three of the most influential chefs on the international scene: Nobu Matsuhisa (Nobu), Izu Ani (GAIA), and Dani García (Leña). The undisputed star of the day was tuna – an ingredient featured in all the dishes, interpreted through diverse culinary visions. From Japan to Andalusia, and into the contemporary Mediterranean, the chefs explored the versatility of this product at the height of its season.

| WWW.PUENTEROMANO.COM





BAZLAMA BRINGS TURKISH CUISINE AND HOSPITALITY TO THE COAST

Turkish restaurant group Bazlama is continuing its international expansion by opening a new branch in El Paraíso, located between Marbella and Estepona. This new restaurant introduced the popular Turkish breakfast concept to Europe, showcasing authentic Turkish cuisine and extending the welcoming hand of genuine Turkish hospitality to residents and visitors on the Costa del Sol. It is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm and serves its signature all-you-can-eat Turkish breakfast, as well as set menus featuring gözleme and meze, along with drinks and cocktails.

BOOK A TABLE ON TEL: 951 830 136 OR FOLLOW BAZLAMA ON INSTAGRAM @BAZLAMAKAHVALTI.ES



CHINA CROWN MARBELLA OPENS AT THE HOTEL DON PEPE GRAN MELIÁ

Grupo China Crown, an industry leader in high-end Asian cuisine, has recently opened its new restaurant, China Crown Marbella, at the Hotel Don Pepe Gran Meliá. The concept, already established in Madrid, is characterised by a blend of ancestral techniques, high-quality ingredients, and an ambience that evokes the splendour of ancient Oriental dynasties. The menu offers a wide variety of flavours rediscovered through travels across Asia in search of authentic ingredients and original recipes from imperial cuisine.

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INVINIC, Benahavís' temple of wine, ushered in the summer with a tasting of world-class rosés, live music, and a pink-hued celebration at sunset.

A ROSÉ REVERIE AT SUNSET

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY **SEBASTIÁN LOZANO**

When the last rays of an Andalusian evening brushed the white-washed rooftops of Benahavís, INVINIC Wine Collection Boutique answered with a glow of its own: blush-pink in every glass and on every smile. ‘Sunset Rosé Summer – Let Yourself Blossom’ was more than an excuse to clink crystal; it was a master-class in the serious pleasure of modern rosé, presented through four bottles, each telling its own story of place, craft, and summertime joie de vivre.

Spanish TV personality Agustín Bravo raised his glass of Miraval as the sky shifted from coral to violet, while musician-oenologist Antonio Carlos Miñán punctuated the tasting with

an acoustic riff and expert commentary. Lifestyle journalists on a Marbella getaway mingled with local content creators, turning the boutique’s courtyard into the coast’s most-Instagrammed address for the evening.

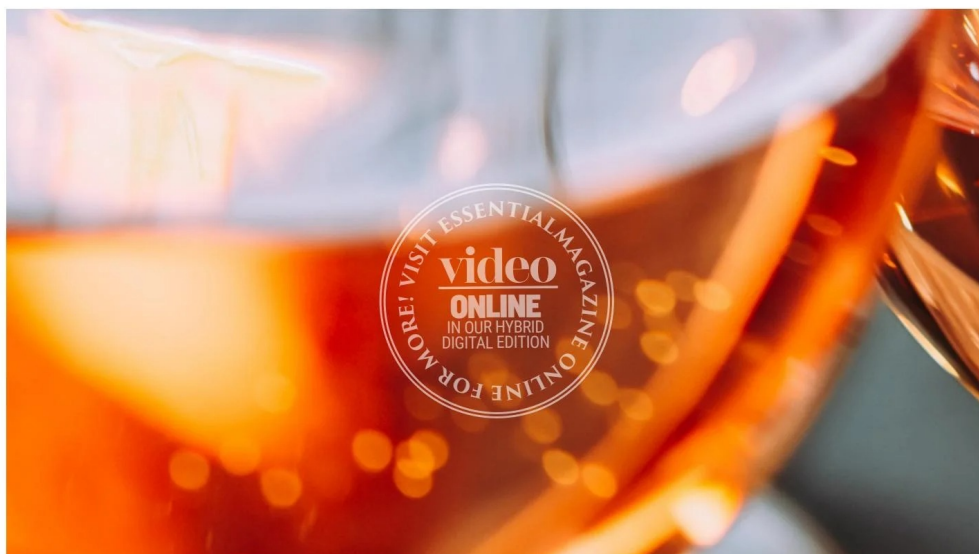
» **MIRAVAL ROSÉ – CÔTES DE PROVENCE**

There is glamour, and then there is Miraval – the rare celebrity wine whose fame is matched by pedigree. High-altitude vineyards and the Perrin family’s savoir-faire give this blend of Cinsault, Grenache, Syrah, and Rolle the feel of a sea breeze on a hot day. Notes of wild strawberry and white blossom dance across the palate, finishing with the subtle, saline snap Provence aficionados crave. Pair it with sushi, ceviche, or simply the sight

of that peach-pink horizon.

» **IRRESISTIBLE ROSÉ – CRU CLASSÉ DE PROVENCE**

Only eighteen estates have earned the coveted Cru Classé title since 1955, and this bottle wears the badge with quiet confidence. Grapefruit zest, peach skin, and Provençal herbs rise from the glass before yielding to a silky, structured palate that lingers like a holiday that refuses to end. Grenache, Cinsault, and Rolle form the backbone, giving both aromatics and gastronomic weight – think sea bass baked in a salt crust or a sliver of foie gras with rhubarb compote. It is the wine that turned the evening’s polite murmurs into contented sighs – proof that rosé can be every bit as complex as its crimson counterparts. ›



» CUVÉE MADAME – CÔTES DE PROVENCE

If Miraval is the starlet, 'Madame' is the softly-spoken insider: low-intervention, limited-production, and impossibly refined. Rolle leads the blend, lending white-rose perfume, while Grenache and a whisper of Syrah bring apricot and fresh almond. On the palate, grace meets substance in a tightrope act of texture and freshness. Served at 11 °C alongside salmon tartare and young goat's cheese, it illustrated why boutique projects are the darlings of collectors. Expect to hear more about this 'secret lady' as aficionados race to secure the few cases available.





» **LA DÉLICATE ROSÉ – IGP PAYS D'OC**

Finally, freedom in a glass. Unbound by AOC regulations, La Délicate is happy to flirt with convention, showcasing Cinsault-Grenache purity at a feather-light 9–10 °C. Wild berries, spring flowers, and a twist of citrus make it the ultimate terrace refresher – easy-going yet characterful, the way French cinema once described a perfect holiday romance. Its versatility paid

dividends at the canapé station, elevating everything from Niçoise skewers to watermelon-feta bites.

WHY THESE FOUR MATTER

Tasted side by side, the quartet demolished the myth that all pink wines are created equal. Altitude, soil, winemaking philosophy, and even bottle shape transformed the colour we take for granted into a

kaleidoscope of nuances. INVINIC's sommeliers guided guests through temperature ranges, stemware choices, and clever food pairings, proving that a well-curated rosé list deserves the same reverence usually reserved for reds and whites.

LOOKING AHEAD

Timed to coincide with the first full moon of summer, Sunset Rosé set the tone for a season of oenological discovery at the Costa del Sol's premiere wine boutique. Whispered during the final pour was talk of INVINIC's upcoming first-anniversary celebration – a promise of more limited releases, vertical tastings, and the kind of convivial evenings that turn casual sippers into lifelong devotees.

If you missed the pink glow this time, let the wines be your passport: chilled, cork-popped, and ready to paint your own sunset wherever July finds you.

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